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CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS SUBMITTED BY STATES PARTIES
UNDER ARTICLE 44 OF THE CONVENTION

Initial reports of States parties due in 1992

Addendum

Egypt

[23 October 1992]

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* Available for consultation in the files of the Secretariat.

Introduction

1. Egypt has had a long history in the field of child development starting in pharaonic days and lasting until the present times. Testifying to this are murals on ancient temples, engravings on archaeological monuments, as well as current services and programmes.

2. A number of recent major happenings deserve to be pointed out:

(a) The establishment of the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood in January 1989;

(b) The Declaration by President Mubarak of the Egyptian Decade of the Child, 1989-1999;

(c) The formulation of a general policy and strategy for the development of Egyptian childhood;

(d) The inclusion of the childhood and motherhood components in the third five-year State plan 1992/1993-1997/1998.

3. Undoubtedly, the personal interest of Mrs. Susan Mubarak, the President's wife, was the most important factor that led to these events and to the increased attention given to childhood and motherhood.

I. GENERAL ECONOMIC AND DEMOGRAPHIC INDICATORS*

4. The estimated population as at 1 July 1990 was 53,200,000, comprising 27,200,000 males and 26,000,000 females. This was an increase over the 1986 census which showed 48,300,000 persons, of whom 24,700,000 were males and 23,500,000 were female and of whom 21,200,000 (44 per cent) lived in the cities and 27,000,000 in rural areas.

5. The average annual per capita income in 1990 was US$ 600.

6. The Gross National Product in 1990 was US$ 33,210,000,000.

7. The average annual ratio of inflation for the period 1980-1990 was 11.8 per cent.

8. Total foreign debt in 1990, excluding military debt, was US$ 39,885,000,000.

9. The rate of unemployment in 1990-1992 was 9 per cent.

10. The rate of illiteracy in 1990 was 52 per cent; the rate of illiteracy for females was 66 per cent.

11. Life expectancy at birth in 1990 was 60 years.

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* Compiled mainly from the 1992 World Bank report.

12. The infant mortality rate (under one year of age) in 1990 was 43.3 for every 1,000 live births; the infant mortality rate under the age of five was 6.1 per 1,000.

13. The rate of prenatal and perinatal maternal mortality in 1990 was 50 per every 1,000 live births.

14. The fertility rate in 1986 was 4.9 children per female.

15. The percentage of the population under the age of 15 in 1986 census was 40 per cent; the percentage of the population over 65 was 3.9 per cent.

16. According to the 1986 Census, 94.2 per cent of the population were Muslims and 5.8 per cent Christians.

17. A number of indicators were unobtainable, such as the percentage of families supported by women. Furthermore, most data are unclassified by sex. It is noteworthy that the Council for Childhood and Motherhood has established a childhood and motherhood computer and information unit. Work on the related database is under way. Subsequent reports will therefore contain more detailed and more precise information than in the present report.

II. GENERAL POLITICAL STRUCTURE

18. The Constitution of the Arab Republic of Egypt, promulgated in 1971, states that the Arab Republic of Egypt is a democratic socialist State and that sovereignty is for the people alone, who are the source of all authority. The political system is a multi-party system within the framework of the basic elements and principles of Egyptian society as stipulated in the Constitution.

A. Head of State

19. The head of State is the President of the Republic. He is charged with asserting the sovereignty of the people, respecting the Constitution, insuring the supremacy of the law, safeguarding national unity and the socialist gains, and maintaining the boundaries between authorities in order to ensure that they perform their role in the national effort. The President is nominated by the People's Assembly; the nomination is then referred to the people for a plebiscite.

20. The term of the presidency is six years. The President of the Republic may be re-elected.

21. Before exercising his powers, the President of the Republic takes a prescribed oath before the People's Assembly.

B. The Legislature

22. The People's Assembly exercises the legislative power and approves the general policy of the State. It also exercises control over the work of the executive authority in the manner prescribed in the Constitution. The duration of the People's Assembly term is five years from the day of its first meeting. Elections for renewal of the Assembly take place within the 60 days

preceding the termination of the term. At the first meeting of its ordinary annual session the People's Assembly elects a speaker and two deputy speakers. If the seat of any of them becomes vacant, the Assembly elects a substitute to serve for the remainder of the term of office. The People's Assembly, moreover, formulates its own rules of procedure with regard to the manner in which it exercises its functions.

23. The President of the Republic has the right, in case of necessity or in exceptional cases and on the authorization of the People's Assembly upon the approval of a two-thirds majority, to issue resolutions that have the force of law. The authorization must be for a limited period of time.

C. The Executive

24. The President of the Republic assumes executive power and exercises it in the manner stipulated in the Constitution. In conjunction with the Council of Ministers, the President lays down the general policy of the State and supervises its implementation in the manner prescribed in the Constitution. He appoints the Prime Minister, his deputies, the ministers and other deputies and relieves them of their posts. The President also has the right to call a meeting of the Council of Ministers and to attend its meeting. He presides over the meetings he attends. He is entitled to demand reports from the Ministers. In case it becomes necessary, during the recess between the sessions of the People's Assembly, to take measures which cannot be delayed, the President of the Republic would issue decisions in this respect, which would have the force of law.

25. The Government is the supreme executive and administrative organ of the State. It consists of the Prime Minister, his deputies, the ministers and their deputies. The Prime Minister supervises the work of the Government. The members of the Cabinet take an oath of office before the President of the Republic.

26. The Arab Republic of Egypt is divided into administrative units which are legal entities, among which are governorates, cities and villages. Other administrative units may be established as legal entities if the public interest so requires. Local People's Councils are gradually formed, on the level of administrative units, by direct election, with the stipulation that at least half of their numbers be workers and peasants. The law provides for the gradual transfer of authority to these councils.

27. Specialized Councils are established on the national level to assist in the formulation of the general policy of the State in all fields of national activity. These Councils come under the President of the Republic who determines their composition and functions by presidential decree.

28. The judiciary is independent. Judicial authority is exercised by courts of justice of different types and levels. These act in accordance with the law. Judges are independent, subject to no authority other than that of the law. No authority may intervene in a case or in the affairs of justice.

29. The Supreme Constitutional Court is an independent judicial body which oversees the constitutionality of laws and regulations and undertakes the

interpretation of legal texts, all in accordance with the law. Members of the Constitutional Court cannot be dismissed from their positions, and only the Court itself can call its members to account in the manner prescribed by law.

30. The Socialist Public Prosecutor is charged with the responsibility of taking measures to ensure people's rights and the safety of society, to maintain socialist gains and commitment to socialist behaviour; other powers would be defined by law. He is subject to the control of the People's Assembly in the manner prescribed by law.

31. The Armed Forces and the National Defence Council are in charge of protecting the country, its territorial integrity and security. The President of the Republic presides over the Defence Council which is responsible for ensuring the safety of the country.

32. The Police are in the service of the people, and they maintain peace and security for the citizenry and preserve order, public security and morality. They also undertake such duties as are prescribed by laws and regulations.

III. GENERAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS 1/

A. Constitution

33. The Constitution of Egypt, promulgated in 1971, adverts considerable attention to human rights and underlines the need to translate them into laws, particularly in all their political and economic aspects. The following is a list of the various principles connected with the protection of human rights and contained in the Constitution:

(a) First and second parts of the Constitution:

(i) The people are the source of all authority; the people's will is in the power of Government (art. 3);

(ii) Non-exploitation, equal distribution of public duties and responsibilities and the protection of legitimate earnings (art. 4);

(iii) Political freedom and the political multi-party system (art. 5);

(iv) Equality of opportunity (art. 8);

(v) Protection of the family, childhood and motherhood and care for children and youths (arts. 9 and 10);

(vi) Equality between men and women in the political, social, and economic domains;

1/ Information contained in this part of the report is based on Egypt's second periodic report to the Human Rights Committee.

(vii) The right to work, credit for excellence and the prohibition of forced labour;

(viii) The right to assume public office and the inadmissibility of dismissal without recourse to disciplinary channels except in cases prescribed by law;

(ix) The right to free education at all levels, it being compulsory at the primary level; State commitment to the expansion of mandatory education to other levels (arts. 18 and 20);

(x) The right to cultural, social and health services as well as to health insurance, incapacity, unemployment and old age pensions (arts. 16 and 17);

(xi) Equity in the distribution of national income and guarantee of minimum wages; elimination of unemployment and worker participation in management and profit (arts. 23, 24, 25, 26 and 27);

(xii) The right to form cooperatives and State commitment to foster, encourage and support them within the framework of self-management (art. 28);.

(xiii) The safeguarding of private property and the prohibition of its sequestration except by court decision, and the inadmissibility of expropriating it except in the public interest. It may not be nationalized except for considerations of public interest and against a fair compensation in accordance with law (art. 34);

(b) Third part of the Constitution. This part is devoted to public freedoms, rights and duties. It encompasses many of the principles enshrined in international human rights treaties. These principles are:

(i) Equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex, origin, language, religion or belief. Citizens are equal before the law. They have equal public rights and duties (art. 40);

(ii) Rights and freedoms. These are individual freedom, the right to privacy, the inviolability of home and communications, the right and freedom of movement, emigration, creed and opinion, to elect and be elected, the press, scientific research, public meeting, associations, trade unions, and political asylum. These freedoms and rights are covered in articles 41, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56 and 62;

(iii) The invalidity of evidence obtained through duress or coercion (art. 42);

(iv) The non-applicability of the statute of limitations to civil lawsuits arising from assaults on the rights and freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution and by law. The State is liable to pay compensation for victims of such assaults (art. 57).

34. Ever since the promulgation of the Egyptian Constitution in 1971 and its Amendments in 1980, there have been many interpretations and rulings arising from the practical and actual application of its provisions. Most of these have ultimately found their way to the Supreme Constitutional Court as the sole competent authority. It has passed many rulings which reinforced the noble and lofty values embodied in the Constitution with regard to human rights and freedoms. It has declared unconstitutional those texts that violate, contravene or impinge upon these rights.

35. It is clear, therefore, that the human rights and freedoms, as approved internationally in the various relevant instruments, are provided for in the Constitution in clear terms, as stated above. The Constitutional Court, by overseeing, as mandated, the constitutionality of laws and regulations and interpreting legislative texts, actually safeguards human rights and freedoms against any legislative violation.

36. This integrated constitutional structure, along with the unambiguous legislative provisions and the effective judicial protection available, provides the necessary bases for stability and respect, the means for protection and continuity, and the ways for expansion and development of human rights and freedoms in Egypt. This is the ultimate fulfilment of human right declarations and conventions.

B. Penal Code and other legislation related to human rights

37. It should be stated from the outset in this connection that the Penal Code and the special criminal codes form a general framework with respect to criminal acts. These fall within one of two circles: the first has natural persons at its centre and includes all those acts affecting the rights and freedoms of the individual, his person or his property. The second has the whole of society at its centre, that is the community of individuals, and covers all those acts which constitute violations of the rights and interests of society which are protected and regulated by law.

38. Consequently, all crimes related to human rights and freedoms as defined by international instruments are punishable under Egyptian penal law. Such crimes as murder, bodily assault, kidnapping, rape, libel, torture, abuse of authority and violation of privacy are crimes affecting human rights in that they affect man spiritually and physically. Crimes such as theft, arson, fraud, deception, sabotage and wilful damage affect individuals' properties and their inviolability. Other crimes such as treason, embezzlement, bribery, forgery, false coinage, wilful damage to the country, interruption of communications and sabotage of State-owned property were instituted to protect the interests of society and the totality of its individuals for the purpose of safeguarding its security, stability and tranquillity with the aim of regulating interests and promoting confidence in mutual dealings. These are

related to the rights provided for in international instruments (art. 28 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights).

39. The second periodic report submitted to the Human Rights Committee contains a comprehensive review of Egyptian laws which secure protection for persons. The present report reviews, in particular, some of the crimes provided for in the Penal Code and in a number of other special penal laws related to the rights and freedoms of the child.

1. The Juveniles Act No 31 of 1974

40. The crime of hiding a juvenile who has, by court order, been made the ward of a person or a body, or that of enticing or helping him to flee, is punishable by imprisonment or fine or both, parents, grandparents and spouses excluded (art. 22 of the Juvenile Act).

41. Exposing a juvenile to delinquency or helping him or enticing him thereto is punishable by imprisonment. The term of incarceration must not be less than three months in case the perpetrator is an antecedent of the juvenile or one responsible for his upbringing or custody, or if force or coercion is used in the act (art. 23 of the Juvenile Act).

42. The penalty for these acts is in harmony with article 10 of the Egyptian Constitution and is consistent with the principles provided for in the Declaration on the Rights of the Child.

Measures and penalties applicable to juveniles

43. Article 7 of the Act prescribes the following measures and penalties that can be imposed on a juvenile who commits an offence while he is under 15 years of age: a reprimand, delivery into the care of a parent or guardian, enrolment for vocational training, the compulsory fulfilment of specified obligations, probation, placement in a social care institution, or admission to a specialized hospital.

44. Article 15 prescribes the penalties that can be imposed on a juvenile over 15 but under 18 years of age: a term of not less than 10 years' imprisonment for offences punishable by death or hard labour for life, a term of imprisonment for offences punishable by hard labour, or a term of not less than six months' detention for offences punishable by a term of imprisonment. In all these cases, the court may order the juvenile to be placed in a social care institution. For all other offences punishable by detention, the court may order the juvenile to be placed in a social care institution or under probation.

Juvenile courts and their procedures

45. The Act made provision for the establishment of special juvenile courts consisting of a single judge, assisted by two experienced social workers, at least one of whom must be a woman, whose presence during the trial proceedings is obligatory. These two assessors must report to the court on all aspects of the juvenile's circumstances before the court hands down its judgement. Under the provisions of the Act, appeals against such judgements may be lodged with

a special division of the court of first instance, which follows the procedures applicable to misdemeanours. The trial proceedings can be attended only by the juvenile, witnesses and lawyers and, in cases involving felonies, a lawyer must be appointed if the juvenile does not have one to defend him. Juvenile court judges are competent to exercise supervision and control and to adjudicate in all disputes concerning execution of judgements (arts. 28, 29, 33, 34 and 40 of the Juveniles Act).

Enforcement of sentences imposed on juveniles

46. Financial penalties imposed on juveniles cannot be enforced by means of physical coercion, nor can juveniles be compelled to pay fees or expenses. Custodial sentences imposed on juveniles must be served in special penal institutions in which they are given opportunities for rehabilitation through development and reform projects (arts. 47, 48 and 49 of the Juveniles Act). The rules and regulations referred to in paragraphs 43-46 above are fully in accordance with the principles embodied in the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice.

2. Suppression of Prostitution Act No. 10 of 1961

47. Incitement or enticement to engage in prostitution or other indecent acts, or aiding and abetting therein, is punishable by a term of one to three years' imprisonment, together with a fine, and the amount of the fine and the length of the term of imprisonment are increased if the offence involves persons under 21 years of age or if it is committed through the use of coercion or threats (arts. 1 and 2 of the Act).

48. Anyone who incites or helps a person to enter or leave the country, or who employs or accompanies such person, for the purpose of engagement in prostitution or other indecent acts is punishable by a term of one to five years' imprisonment, together with a fine, and the maximum term of imprisonment is increased to seven years if the offence is committed against two or more persons or through the use of coercion or threats (arts. 3 and 5 of the Act).

49. If any of the offences referred to in the above paragraphs are committed against a person under 16 years of age, or if the offender holds a position of responsibility or authority as an ascendant, guardian or tutor, the penalty is a term of three to seven years' imprisonment (art. 4 of the Act).

50. Anyone who exploits the immorality of others or helps a female to engage in prostitution is punishable by imprisonment for a term of six months to three years, which is increased to a term of one to five years if the offence involves the aggravating circumstances referred to in paragraph 49 above (art. 6 of the Act).

51. Anyone who manages, leases or makes available premises to be used for prostitution or other immoral purposes, or who habitually engages in prostitution or other immoral acts, is punishable by imprisonment for a term of three months to three years and/or a fine and closure of the premises (arts. 8, 9 and 10 of the Act).

52. Anyone operating or managing a public establishment or place of entertainment who employs persons engaged in prostitution with a view to facilitating their engagement therein or using them to promote his establishment is liable to a term of up to two years' imprisonment, a fine and closure of the establishment for a period of three months and this penalty is increased, with permanent closure of the establishment, if the offender is an ascendant or guardian of, or in a position of authority over, the person engaging in prostitution (art. 11).

53. Anyone who knowingly works or normally resides in a house of prostitution is liable to a term of up to one year's imprisonment (art. 13).

54. Any form of public dissemination of an invitation inciting others to engage in prostitution or drawing their attention thereto is punishable by a term of up to three years' imprisonment and/or a fine (art. 14). The Act stipulates that a repeated offender who habitually engages in prostitution after serving a previous sentence therefore must be placed in a special reform institution and such placement may also be ordered in the case of persons who are not repeated offenders. Article 15 of the Act further stipulates that a person convicted of any of the above-mentioned offences must be placed under police surveillance for a period equivalent to the duration of the sentence imposed.

55. From the above, it is evident that all the acts referred to in the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others are designated as criminal offences for which appropriate penalties are prescribed in Egyptian law.

56. This brief review of some of the acts which are designated as criminal offences in the Egyptian Penal Code and in other special penal legislation clearly shows the extent to which this legislation is in conformity with the international instruments concerning human rights and freedoms. It also illustrates the active role which Egyptian penal legislation is playing in ensuring the legal protection of human rights and freedoms by designating any violations or infringements thereof as criminal offences for which appropriate penalties are prescribed.

C. The Egyptian Emergency Act and principles of human rights

57. States of emergency which are proclaimed in the country are regulated by article 148 of the Egyptian Constitution, which stipulates that a state of emergency can be proclaimed by the President of the Republic but must be submitted to the People's Assembly for ratification within 15 days of the date of its proclamation. The same article further stipulates that a state of emergency can be proclaimed only for a specified period of time, which can be extended solely with the approval of the People's Assembly.

58. In this connection, article 4 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights stipulates that, in time of public emergency which threatens the life of the nation and the existence of which has been officially proclaimed, it is permissible to take measures derogating from the obligations arising from the Covenant. However, such measures must not derogate from the principles set forth in articles 6, 7, 8, 11, 15, 16 and 18, concerning the

right to life, safeguards pertaining to the death penalty, the prohibition of torture and of slavery, servitude or imprisonment for civil debt, the legal basis of crime and punishment and recognition of legal personality and of freedom of thought and religious belief.

59. The Egyptian Legislature followed the system of pre-emergency legislation by promulgating Act No. 162 of 1958, as amended by Act No. 37 of 1972, Act No. 164 of 1981 and Act No. 50 of 1982, which contain the provisions and regulations to be applied when a state of emergency has been proclaimed in the country. These legislative instruments define the circumstances in which a state of emergency can be proclaimed, the authority competent to proclaim it, the procedure for its extension, the measures that can be taken while it is in force, the circumstances in which complaints can be lodged against it, the procedures to be followed by the emergency courts and the effects of the termination of the state of emergency. These provisions are explained in greater detail below.

Justification of the proclamation of a state of emergency

60. The Act permits the proclamation of a state of emergency in conditions in which public order and security are endangered due to the outbreak of war, the existence of a situation that threatens to lead to such an outbreak, the occurrence of disturbances within the country, general disasters or the spread of an epidemic (art. 1).

Authority competent to proclaim a state of emergency

61. A state of emergency must be proclaimed and terminated by a presidential decree stating the reason for its proclamation and specifying the area in which it will apply, as well as the date of its entry into force and its duration.

62. The decree must be submitted to the People's Assembly for ratification within 15 days. If it is not submitted to, or not approved by, the People's Assembly, the state of emergency is deemed to be terminated (art. 2 of the Act, as amended by Act No. 37 of 1972).

Extension of the state of emergency

63. A state of emergency cannot be extended beyond the period specified in the decree by which it was proclaimed without the approval of the People's Assembly. It is deemed to be terminated unless such approval is granted before the expiration of the said period (art. 2 of the Act, as amended by Act No. 37 of 1972).

Measures that can be taken during a state of emergency

64. When a state of emergency has been legally proclaimed, the President of the Republic is empowered to take appropriate measures to avert the danger threatening the country and maintain security and order. He may impose restrictions on freedom of assembly, movement and residence, order the arrest and search of suspicious persons who pose a threat to security, censor correspondence and the press, determine the working hours at public

institutions, issue any work assignments, seize movable and immovable property (without prejudice to the provisions of the Mobilization Act concerning complaints and compensation), withdraw licences for firearms and explosives and evacuate or isolate any areas. The scope of these measures can be expanded only with the approval of the People's Assembly, in accordance with procedures that must be followed for the proclamation of the state of emergency itself (art. 3 of the Act).

Circumstances in which complaints can be lodged against measures taken during a state of emergency, and the rights of persons who suffer detriment as a result thereof

65. Anyone who is arrested or detained must be informed immediately of the reasons for his arrest or detention and has the right to contact any person whom he may wish to notify of what has happened. He is also entitled to avail himself of the services of a lawyer.

66. The detainee must be treated in the same way as a person held in precautionary detention.

67. The detainee, and any other persons concerned, has the right to lodge a complaint with the Higher State Security Court if he is not released within 30 days from the date of issue of the arrest warrant.

68. The court must hand down a substantiated decision on the complaint within 15 days from the date of its submission, failing which the detainee must be released immediately.

69. Any person whose complaint has been rejected has the right to submit a new complaint 30 days after the rejection of his previous complaint.

70. The Minister of the Interior has the right to appeal against a release order issued by the court. Such appeal must be heard, within 15 days of its submission, by another division whose decision is final (art. 3 bis added to Act No. 60 of 1968, as amended by Act No. 37 of 1972, Act No. 165 of 1981 and Act No. 50 of 1972).

Court competent to hear complaints against detention orders

71. The Egyptian Emergency Act makes provision for the formation of State security (emergency) courts which are competent to hear cases involving offences in violation of the provisions of decrees promulgated in connection with a state of emergency, as well as offences under the ordinary law which the President of the Republic decides to place under their jurisdiction. These courts are constituted as follows:

(a) Lower State security courts, established within the area of jurisdiction of each court of first instance and presided over by one of the latter's judges, are competent to hear cases involving offences punishable by imprisonment and/or a fine. The President of the Republic is empowered to appoint two officers as additional members of such courts;

(b) Higher State security courts, established in the area of jurisdiction of each court of appeal and presided over by three of its justices, are competent to hear offences punishable by a criminal penalty, as well as other offences specified by the President of the Republic. Two officers may be appointed as additional members of such courts by order of the President of the Republic;

(c) Actions brought before these courts are instituted by members of the Department of Public Prosecutions, who are vested with the powers of examining magistrates;

(d) These courts follow the procedures laid down in the legislation in force in regard to the hearing and judgement of cases and enforcement of the sentences handed down;

(e) Judgements handed down by State security (emergency) courts are subject to ratification by the President of the Republic and do not become final before such ratification. If the accused is acquitted during a retrial ordered by the President of the Republic, ratification of the verdict is mandatory;

(f) Before judgements are ratified by the President of the Republic, both they and any appeals lodged against them must be examined either by a justice presiding over a court of appeal, or by a solicitor general designated to that end. They must ascertain the correctness of the procedures, examine the appeals and express their opinion, by means of a substantiated memorandum, in each criminal case;

(g) The President of the Republic is empowered to order a stay of court proceedings, to commute a sentence and to cancel or suspend the enforcement of any principal, supplementary or incidental penalty either before or after ratification (arts. 7, 9, 10, 12, 14 and 16 of the Act).

Effects of the termination of a state of emergency

72. Articles 19 and 20 of the Act specify the effects of the termination of a state of emergency on cases that are being heard by State security (emergency) courts. They stipulate that the courts must continue to hear those cases, whereas cases that have not been referred to them are heard by the ordinary courts competent to do so. The regulations concerning ratification of judgements continue to apply to judgements handed down before the termination of the state of emergency and also to judgements handed down in cases which continue to be heard by the State security (emergency) courts in accordance with the above-mentioned provision.

73. It is evident, therefore, that the principles and provisions laid down in the Egyptian Emergency Act are in conformity with article 4 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, since there is nothing in these principles and provisions which implies a violation or infringement of that article or of any of the provisions from which, under the terms thereof, no derogation is permissible during legally proclaimed states of emergency.

D. The Egyptian Judicial Authority Act and principles of human rights

74. The Egyptian Constitution stipulates that the judicial authority is independent and is exercised by courts of various kinds and levels which pass judgement in accordance with the law. Judges are independent and, in their administration of justice, are subject to no power other than that of the law. No authority has the right to interfere in legal proceedings or judicial affairs. The law specifies the conditions and procedures for the appointment and transfer of members of the judiciary, who are not subject to dismissal although their disciplinary accountability is prescribed by law (arts. 165, 166, 167 and 168 of the Constitution).

75. The international instruments concerning principles of human rights include the Basic Principles on the Independence of the Judiciary, endorsed by United Nations General Assembly resolutions 40/132 of 29 November 1985 and 40/146 of 13 December 1985. Those Principles relate to judicial immunity, conditions of appointment, qualifications, term of office, promotion, discipline and removal.

76. The Judicial Authority Act No. 46 of 1972, as amended by Acts No. 17 of 1974, No. 96 of 1976 and No. 25 of 1984, embodies these fundamental concepts recognized in the Egyptian Constitution and the Basic Principles on the Independence of the Judiciary, as illustrated by the following:

(a) The competence of the courts to adjudicate in all disputes and offences, unless otherwise stipulated by special enactment, is defined by law (arts. 14 and 15 of the Act);

(b) Judges cannot be transferred, reassigned or seconded except in the circumstances and the manner prescribed by law (art. 52 of the Act);

(c) Members of the judiciary and the Department of Public Prosecutions, with the exception of prosecution assistants are not subject to dismissal (art. 67 of the Act);

(d) The general assemblies formed at each court and consisting of all its members are responsible for allocating and scheduling work, determining the number of divisions and sessions of the court and delegating its members to work in the criminal courts (art. 30 of the Act);

(e) The Higher Council of the Judiciary is legally competent to hear all matters relating to the appointment, promotion, transfer, assignment and secondment of members of the judiciary and the Department of Public Prosecutions, as well as other matters concerning them, in the manner prescribed by law. The Council is presided over by the president of the Court of Cassation and includes among its members the president of the Cairo Court of Appeal, the Attorney General, the two most senior vice-presidents of the Court of Cassation and the two most senior presidents of the other courts of appeal (arts. 77 bis (1) and 77 bis (2) of the Act);

(f) Only the civil divisions of the Court of Cassation are competent to hear applications submitted by members of the judiciary and the Department of

Public Prosecutions for the annulment of final administrative decisions concerning their affairs. Those divisions are also vested with sole competence to hear applications for compensation and disputes concerning salaries, pensions and allowances (art. 83 of the Act);

(g) The disciplinary control of judges is exercised by a special board consisting of the president of the Court of Cassation, the three most senior presidents of the courts of appeal and the three most senior chief justices of the Court of Cassation. The meetings of the board are held in camera and its decisions concerning removal from office require ratification by the President of the Republic, which is published in the Official Gazette (arts. 98, 106, 108 and 110 of the Act);

(h) Except in cases of flagrante delicto, a judge cannot be arrested or held in precautionary detention unless permission has been obtained from a special committee. In cases of flagrante delicto, the matter must be referred within 24 hours to the said committee, which is vested with sole competence to order the continued detention or release of the judge. No investigative action may be taken in criminal matters without the approval of the said committee. Custodial sentences imposed on judges must be served in special institutions (art. 96 of the Act).

77. The principles concerning the independence of the judiciary, as contained in the above-mentioned Judicial Authority Act, are in conformity with the provisions of the Egyptian Constitution and the principles adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations in this regard.

E. Egypt's contribution to international human rights instruments

78. Throughout its long history and by virtue of its geographical location at the junction of three continents, Egypt has been an active member of the international community and has been affected by events taking place in all parts of the world. It has also done its utmost to contribute to the consolidation of the values of truth and justice and to the advancement, development, freedom and self-determination of all peoples.

79. Egypt's time-honoured cultural heritage and historical experience over the ages have constituted the powerful driving force behind its active endeavours in this field, as a natural result of which Egypt has been among the most active members of the international community diligently seeking to promote the principles of human rights and ensure that they are enjoyed by all the peoples of the world.

80. In keeping with its civilized view of the future of mankind as a whole and its firm belief in the noble aim of safeguarding human dignity, rights and freedoms, Egypt has promptly acceded to most of the international declarations and instruments in this regard. It has also played an effective role in the adoption of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and in the current preparation for the adoption of the Charter of Human Rights of the Arab and Islamic States.

81. The international human rights instruments to which Egypt has acceded are:

(a) The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (United Nations, New York, 16 December 1966);

(b) The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (United Nations, New York, 16 December 1966);

(c) The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (United Nations, New York, 21 December 1965);

(d) The International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid (United Nations, New York, 30 November 1973);

(e) The International Convention against Apartheid in Sports (United Nations, 10 December 1985);

(f) The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (United Nations, 18 December 1979);

(g) The Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (United Nations, New York, 9 December 1948);

(h) The Slavery Convention (Geneva, 25 September 1926);

(i) The Protocol amending the Slavery Convention signed at Geneva on 25 September 1926) (United Nations, New York, 23 October 1953);

(j) The Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade, and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery (Geneva, 7 September 1956);

(k) The Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others (United Nations, New York, 2 December 1949);

(l) The Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (United Nations, New York, 10 December 1984);

(m) The Convention relating to the Status of Refugees (Geneva, 28 July 1951);

(n) The Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees (New York, 31 January 1967);

(o) The Convention on the Political Rights of Women (United Nations, New York, 20 December 1952);

(p) The Forced Labour Convention (Geneva, 22 June 1930);

(q) The Convention on the Rights of the Child (New York, 20 November 1989).

82. Following its accession to those international instruments and completion of the requisite constitutional procedures, those instruments became part of the law in force in the country since article 151 of the Egyptian Constitution stipulates that conventions concluded by the President of the Republic and transmitted to the People's Assembly together with an appropriate explanation have the effect of law after their ratification and publication in Arabic in the Official Gazette in accordance with the prescribed procedures.

83. The above clearly illustrates Egypt's active and effective contribution to international instruments concerning human rights and freedoms. It also highlights Egypt's eager desire to secure legal protection for these rights through the codification of the relevant principles in explicit international instruments in order to ensure that they are respected and developed.

84. Within the context of Egypt's commitment to the international human rights instruments, we wish to emphasize Egypt's political commitment to the right of all peoples to self-determination, as stipulated in those instruments. In international forums, Egypt is stressing the need to respect that right and, in keeping with its historical responsibility, is making every endeavour, within the framework of international law, to secure recognition of the legitimate and inalienable rights of the Palestinian people so that, like all other peoples of the world, it can exercise its right to self-determination in accordance with international law.

85. All States have a direct and undeniable interest in the achievement of a just, comprehensive and lasting settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict in a manner consistent with the legitimate and inalienable rights of all peoples, including the Palestinian people and its right to self-determination, with a view to establishing peace and safeguarding the security of all States, including the State of Israel, through a mutual recognition of rights on a basis of equality, justice and respect for sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity in accordance with the principles of contemporary international law.

86. Through this brief review of the position of the Egyptian Constitution and some Egyptian legislation in regard to principles of human rights and freedoms and the extent to which the Constitution and the law of Egypt are consistent with the provisions contained in the relevant international instruments, we can affirm the following:

(a) All principles of human rights and freedoms are accorded high status in Egypt's Constitution and legislation;

(b) Respect for these principles and rights is ensured by the legal protection that they enjoy, as illustrated by the judicial control of the constitutionality of legislation through the Supreme Constitutional Court and the independence of the judiciary which is competent to hear complaints concerning violations of these rights;

(c) Egypt's contribution to international human rights instruments, through its accession thereto, accords these instruments the same status as the legislation in force in the country and places all national authorities and bodies under an obligation to comply with their provisions;

(d) The important role that the Supreme Constitutional Court is playing by upholding the constitutionally recognized human rights and freedoms and ensuring that the legislation promulgated is consistent with those provisions reflects the deep concern that Egypt is showing for human rights and freedoms and confirms its desire to lay the foundations for the future in such a way as to safeguard and protect these rights.

F. Information and publicity about the human rights instruments

87. The Human Rights instruments, which have already been signed by many States, are amongst the greatest achievements of the international community. Therefore, the Egyptian Ministry of Information, in collaboration with other departments concerned, is doing everything it can to acquaint people with their rights and with ways of safeguarding the gains accomplished, as well as with ways of protecting them against whatever may violate these rights, be they individuals or shortcomings in society or performance deficiencies on the part of the departments concerned.

88. Since audio-visual messages are the forms of media transmission closest to the conscience of contemporary man, the state media have concentrated on this form of communication in order to ensure that the messages easily reach the targeted groups and accomplish their objectives. The Egyptian Broadcasting Authority, along with various television channels, has produced a variety of comprehensive education programmes in this regard. Each episode in these programmes has been devoted to a message addressed to a specific group such as that of politicians and decision-makers, children, women, and workers or peasants. The programmes have covered people of all categories and have involved all radio and television channels.

89. The Egyptian Human Rights Society, a non-governmental organization based in Cairo, has been publishing a periodic bulletin covering events and elaborating on the content and means of implementation of the provisions of the instruments and related problems.

IV. SPECIAL PROVISIONS OF THE CONVENTION

A. General measures of implementation

1. Measures to harmonize national law and policy with the provisions of the Convention

90. A working group composed of representatives of the Ministry of Justice, the Consultative Council and the People's Assembly and of legal experts, working under the umbrella of the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood, has reviewed all child and mother legislation and accomplished the following:

(a) Consistency between this legislation and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. This required the addition of a number of items to existing legislation and the amendment of some. Work in this regard has been completed and shall be submitted to the People's Assembly in November in the form of a bill for approval;

(b) The Supreme Constitutional Court has issued an order prohibiting the passing of any bill without giving due consideration to the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

2. Mechanisms at national or local level for coordinating policies relating to children and for monitoring the implementation of the Convention

91. The National Council for Childhood and Motherhood (see annex* for brief account of its formation, functions and projects to date) is charged with the tasks of coordinating, planning, and following up child-related policies and monitoring the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

3. Measures taken to publicize the Convention

92. The National Council for Childhood and Motherhood, in collaboration with other bodies concerned, has prepared media material based on the Convention for use by the media. These include the following:

(a) Printed material: consisting of news for publication in newspapers and magazines or general topics on the Convention for publication in Council publications;

(b) Audio-visual material, including radio features within family, housewife and children's programmes along with panel discussions and talks on the Convention and television, news items, panel discussions and special programmes concerning parts of the Conventions, and school debates.

4. Steps to be taken to report on measures adopted in implementation of article 44 of the Convention

93. The National Council for Childhood and Motherhood, in collaboration with other bodies concerned, plans to publicize its reports through the media, press conferences, cultural meetings, and debates.

B. Definition of the Child

94. According to Egyptian law, a child is any person between live birth and the age of 18.

95. Marriage age is set at 18 for males and 16 for females. Civil legal rights such as selling and buying are attained at the age of 21, which is also the age of conscription and voluntary service in the armed forces.

96. Criminal rights are set for the age of 21, when persons qualify to testify before courts. The age for the execution of penalties is 18. The Juvenile Act provides for the placement of juveniles in care institutions established for the purpose.

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* Available for consultation in the files of the Secretariat.

97. Compulsory education ends at the age of 14. Medical consultation without parental approval is set for the age of 21, when a person attains all his rights including, for example, his political rights to elect and stand for election.

98. The Egyptian Labour Act sets the age of work at 12 years. A proposed unified legislation would raise it to 15 to be consistent with the end of the state compulsory education stage.

C. General principles

1. Non-discrimination

99. Part three of the Egyptian Constitution, entitled "Public Freedoms, Rights and Duties", states that all citizens are equal before the law. They have equal public rights and duties without discrimination between them due to race, ethnic origin, language, religion or creed.

100. The article is applied to children from the moment of their birth in terms of care and services whether in the fields of health, education or development, or in other spheres. Basic education is compulsory for all children. Essential health services are provided for children and mothers alike.

101. Article 10 of the Constitution states that the State would "guarantee the protection of motherhood and childhood, take care of children and youth and provide suitable conditions for the development of their talents". This secures equality and care for children without discrimination.

102. However, despite the non-discrimination guaranteed by the Constitution, there are shortcomings in the full utilization of this provision. This is due to non-awareness, or lack of knowledge of the rights guaranteed, on the part of certain groups despite the available information. Therefore, there is urgent need for the intensification of efforts to increase awareness in such circles in order to make full use of this basic provision with regard to the rights of the child.

2. Best interests of the child

103. Legally, the Civil Status Courts which rule in questions of the family and the child give primary consideration to children with regard to parental care, residence and living expenses. The Juvenile Courts, in whose competence are the delinquent acts committed by juveniles under 18, were created for the very purpose of giving consideration to the age of offenders and to circumstances leading to the offence (Act 31 of 1974).

104. The National Council for Childhood and Motherhood was created by Presidential Decree No. 54 of 1988, which states that the National Council is the highest authority in charge of proposing its own general policies and adopting whatever decisions it deems necessary for the realization of its objectives, particularly in respect of the following:

(a) Proposing general policies in the area of childhood and motherhood;

(b) The formulation of a comprehensive national childhood and motherhood plan covering all areas, particularly social and family care, health, education, culture, information and social protection;

(c) The follow-up and evaluation of childhood and motherhood general policy and national plan in the light of reports received from the various ministries, institutions and bodies. Removal of obstacles encountered;

(d) Collecting and compiling childhood- and motherhood-related information, statistics and studies, evaluating their indicators and conclusions, and establishing new ways of utilizing them.

105. Council decisions are final and immediately enforceable. All ministries, public establishments, local government units and public sector units are charged to implement Council plans, projects and programmes in collaboration with the Council or with its collaborating organs. The primary task of the Council is to give consideration and top priority to the interests of the child in whatever decisions, programmes or projects it adopts.

106. The Ministry of Social Affairs is active in the following areas:

(a) Nurseries for children. These are defined by Act No. 50 of 1977 as any places designated for the purpose of providing care for children under six. Nurseries, overseen and supervised by the Ministry, have the following objectives:

(i) To provide social care for children, developing their faculties and potentials and preparing them physically, culturally and psychologically for the primary education stage;

(ii) To consolidate relations between nurseries and children's families;

(iii) To disseminate awareness among children's families and bringing up the children on sound bases;

(b) Host families. These are non-working families willing to look after the children of working mothers in return for a contractual fee;

(c) Foster institutions for children deprived of family care. These institutions provide care for children exposed to the danger of delinquency who are deprived of family care either on account of loss of parents or because of family disintegrations or parents' inability to bring up children. These institutions admit children from the age of 6 to the age of 16. Provision of care is extended until marriage for girls or until the completion of education;

(d) Children's villages. These provide family-type care to children deprived of family care;

(e) Alternative care in ordinary families for children of unknown parentage who are deprived of family care;

(f) Children's clubs, parks and libraries.

107. Family Guidance and Counselling Offices are run by the Ministry of Social Affairs. They are professional advisory services comprising a number of professionals whose task is to help families settle and solve their problems in order to provide peace and security for children.

108. Legal provisions in Egyptian legislation regulating women's labour (art. 154 of the Labour Act) provides for a mother who has been in the service of her employer for six months to apply for and obtain a 50-day maternity leave with full pay.

109. A woman worker may not benefit from this provision more than three times during her working life and within the 18 months following her last delivery. Article 155 of the Labour Act states that a "woman worker who is breast-feeding her baby is entitled to two rest periods in addition to the one designated for this purpose. No reduction in wages may be made in this respect.

110. Article 156 of the Labour Act reads as follows: "In enterprises employing 50 or more workers, a woman worker shall have the right to apply for leave without pay for a period not exceeding one year, for the purpose of caring for her baby. This leave may not be granted more than three times in the course of her service."

111. The National Council for Childhood and Motherhood, meeting under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister on 31 May 1989, approved the formation of a working group to draft new childhood and motherhood legislation. The new bill, which consists of an introduction and nine parts, aims at improving conditions for childhood and motherhood. Its nine parts shall have the following headings: General Provisions, Child Health Care, Social Care, Child Education, Care for Working Children and Mothers, Care and Rehabilitation of Handicapped Children, Child Culture, Criminal Care for Children, National Council for Childhood and Motherhood. The bill will be submitted to the People's Assembly for approval as part of a single bill on the child.

112. A Child Culture Centre attached to the Ministry of Culture was established in 1987. Its functions include proposing ways and means of coordinating and integrating child culture activities and studying possible non-conventional methods for the development of children's talents and capabilities. It is also charged with the drafting of an integrated child culture plan, in collaboration with other bodies within and without the Ministry of Culture.

113. A country-wide campaign led by the President's wife since 1991, under the slogan "Reading for All", targets children primarily and urges them to attend libraries which, it advocates, should be established everywhere.

3. The right to life, survival, and development
(See paras. 191-198 below)

4. Respect for the views of the child

114. Personal status legislation provides, if circumstances so demand, for the child's views to be heard with regard to continued maternal custody beyond the legally stipulated period after which custody is normally transferred to the father. The child's interest is treated as first priority prior to the application of the law.

D. Civil rights and freedoms

1. Name and nationality

115. The Civil Record Act was passed more than 30 years ago in order to reorganize the registration of births and the issue of birth and nationality certificates. Prior to this Act there existed a number of different regulations governing birth registration and other birth certificate details.

116. The present Civil Record Act provides for a single name for each newborn and for recording the full names of the father, the grandfather and the mother. The Act makes it mandatory for delivery personnel to report each individual birth and to record name, nationality and all other relevant details in a birth notification that must be filed within eight days of the actual delivery. The Act stipulates that each child has a right to a name, and that such name may not be entered in the records if it implies contempt or insult to the dignity of the child or if it contravenes religious beliefs.

117. The Act also states that each child has the right to a nationality. The law regulates the provisions governing Egyptian nationality.

118. Health departments, rural health units, and village health groupings throughout the Republic are the first to receive birth notifications and they record them, name and nationality, in their registers. They pass on such information on a weekly basis to the competent public record office in the area.

119. Yet, and despite the availability of health units to receive notifications of births, some citizens either delay or fail to report their newborns. The rate of name reporting is only 5 per cent in some isolated areas. However, birth registration is maintained at 100 per cent in most of Egypt.

2. Preservation of identity

120. The Civil Record Act makes it obligatory for all males to obtain identity cards from the civil record office of the area of his residence.

121. The Republic of Egypt is divided into governorates which are divided into cities and rural centres. Cities are divided into police departments, and police departments into quarters and quarters into streets. Rural centres are divided into villages and these are divided into quarters and farms.

122. Every civil record unit is responsible for a specific geographic area which is well defined in terms of limits and accountability. The public record act stipulates that every male must, on reaching the age of 16, address himself to the public record office, present his birth certificate and request that he be issued with an identity card stating all his vital statistics and showing his photograph. Any female who has the intention of working must also ask for an identity card at the Civil Record office in whose area of jurisdiction she lives.

123. It is compulsory for all Egyptian males to carry identity cards and to present them in all civil and criminal proceedings. A person failing to carry an identity card is liable to punishment.

124. The Civil Record Act stipulates that on marriage, males must exchange their identity cards for family cards showing names of wife and children.

125. Civil Record offices are in charge of issuing identity and family cards. They keep files on documents issued featuring all data for purposes of statistics and replacement of lost cards.

126. Although it has been in existence for scores of years, the civil record system has failed to institute the national number, the system by which every Egyptian is given a different number. This remains an objective to be achieved; meanwhile, cards continue to feature just the names of holders, their date of birth, place of issue, etc.

127. Existing personal identity and family cards are still not beyond forgery; cards that cannot be forged or tampered with are needed.

3. Freedom of expression

128. Egyptian law provides for respect for the views and wishes of the child. Civil status legislation, for example, provides for the hearing of a child's views concerning continued custody by the mother beyond the age at which custody is legally transferred to the father. The child's interest and opinion are treated as questions of high priority in taking a decision.

4. Access to appropriate information

129. Ministry of Social Affairs statistics provide data on children in the special institutions, for children deprived of care, children in alternative care, and children in juvenile guest houses, placement establishments, and training institutes; and on girls in care institutions for female minors, and on beggars' care establishments (all listed below).

130. The decree establishing the Council for Childhood and Motherhood provides for the establishment of a childhood and motherhood database that would cover all relevant information, statistics and studies including indicators and the evaluation of results. This would be realized in collaboration with research and information centres and with universities and other information sources.

5. Freedom of thought, conscience and religion

131. Article 46 of the Egyptian Constitution provides for the exercise of the freedom of belief and the practice by each individual of his form of worship. It does not, however, single out children.

132. The Constitution prohibits all forms of discrimination based on belief or creed.

133. Article 47 states that freedom of expression is guaranteed for all. Every individual has the right to express his opinion and to make it known by word of mouth, in writing, or in any other means of expression within the limits of the law, self-criticism, and constructive criticism in a manner that safeguards the national integrity.

134. Article 49 guarantees for citizens the freedom of scientific research, and literacy, artistic, and cultural creation. It provides them with the necessary incentives for accomplishing that.

135. Children in Egypt are of their father's religion. Under Islamic law the children of a Muslim father and a Christian mother are themselves, ipso facto, Muslims.

136. A number of television programmes exist for the declared purpose of encouraging children to express themselves freely on a variety of topics. One such programme is the "The little Parliament". Yet, there is room for more effort in the domain of teaching children to express themselves freely and to participate in the discussion of topics of relevance to their life, within the limits of their experience and capabilities and with family guidance.

6. Freedom of association and of peaceful assembly

137. Article 54 of the Egyptian Constitution states that citizens "have the right to peaceable and unarmed private assembly, without need for prior notification. Security men may not attend such private meetings. Public meetings, processions and gatherings are allowed within the limits of the law. Article 55 states that citizens have the right to form associations in the manner prescribed by the law. The formation of associations whose activities are hostile to the system of society, or are clandestine or of military character, is prohibited.

138. Act No. 32 of 1964 regulates the establishment of associations as well as their activities. There are no instances on record of children under six forming their own associations for any purpose. There have been student societies formed by children over six for cultural purposes.

7. Protection of privacy

139. The Egyptian Civil Code provides for the rights of citizens to privacy. No one may be detained or imprisoned without a judicial order and, except where legally authorized, no person or house may be searched without a warrant from the Public Prosecutor or from a competent judge or where authorized by law.

140. Letters or cables may not be concealed or opened or delivered to other than those concerned (art. 154 of the Penal Code).

141. Such provisions are general and not particular to children; they, however, reflect the general atmosphere where children have privacy which is respected by their families for what it achieves by way of teaching the child independence and instilling in him a sense of responsibility. This does not mean complete freedom for the child, for family elders do interfere in his personal affairs to spare him problems and pass on to him some of the experience of his seniors. To this end, the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood has undertaken a review of childhood establishment curricula and programmes in an effort to allow for independence to be consistent with the requirements of the age, to endow the child with the necessary confidence in himself and in society as a whole and to train him to work with others.

8. The right not to be subjected to torture or other cruel or inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment

142. Article 40 of the Criminal Procedure Act No. 150 of 1950 (amended by Act 37 of 1972) stipulates that no one may be arrested or detained except by order from a legally competent authority. When held, one should be treated with the dignity befitting him as a man. He must not be harmed either physically or morally.

143. Article 42 of the Egyptian Constitution states that any person arrested or detained should be treated in a manner that preserves his human dignity. He must not be subjected to any physical or moral harm. He, moreover, may not be detained except in places governed by prison regulation laws.

144. The above provisions apply to all citizens, including children.

E. Family environment and alternative care

145. The Constitution of the Arab Republic of Egypt includes a number of articles on the family consistent with article 5 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

1. Parental guidance

146. Article 9, chapter 1, part II of the Constitution states that the "family is the basis of society, founded on religion, morality, and patriotism. The State is keen to preserve the genuine character of the Egyptian family - with what it embodies of values and traditions - while affirming and developing this character in the relations within the Egyptian society."

147. Article 10 states that the State would guarantee "the protection of motherhood and childhood, take care of children and youth and provide the conditions conducive to the development of their talents."

148. All family relations/laws, combined in the Personal Status Act, are governed by Islamic shariah. Personal status courts exercise the application of these laws and pronounce judgements in the cases before them. These cases include questions of marriage, divorce, guardianship, maintenance, custody and many others.

149. The law prescribes the age entitling children to maternal custody or to paternal custody. It gives the child the right to be heard to express his preference for either.

150. The Ministry of Social Affairs provides extensive childhood and family social services through a special department established for this purpose. The services extended help families bring up their children on a sound basis and offer appropriate assistance to children deprived of family care.

151. To help families confront the many problems, difficulties, and obstacles they face, and to consolidate their role in the bringing up of children, the Ministry has established marriage, family and parental counselling offices. These seek to provide guidance to parents and to help solve problems facing families with the assistance of experts in the social, psychological and legal fields, the purpose being to prevent any collapse in the family structure. The offices also extend assistance to the competent judicial authorities in identifying reasons behind marriage and family conflicts.

152. There are 76 such offices already in existence in provincial capitals, major cities and centres of high urban population concentration. Annually, these offices serve about 8,000 families, an average of 100 families per office. The services rendered are mostly in the areas of resolving marital conflicts, maintenance disputes, and conjugal and custody problems. Further expansion in this type of service is needed and great importance is attached to the recruitment of high-level specialists with considerable experience for services in these offices which should also expand numerically to enable them to confront society's customs, values and traditions, particularly in rural areas. A variety of family planning services are provided. They stem from the need to confront the population problem as a prerequisite for the provision of full care for childhood, not to mention the threat it poses to development plans. The services are provided within the framework of the national policy on population overseen by the Family Planning and Population Authority. The family planning services are provided by the private centres for family planning to be found throughout the governorates of the Republic. There are 491 such centres including 298 in urban areas, 174 in rural areas and 19 in desert areas. They all come under the General Society for Family Planning. The total number of cases frequenting these centres is about 250,000. There are 100,000 new visitors every year. The centres distribute contraceptives: loops, pills and more traditional means. They also treat sterility. There is, moreover, a joint project being carried out in collaboration with the United States Agency for International Development aiming at improving family planning services in Egypt. Its target is the

reduction of fertility in Egypt by increasing the use of family planning methods through the privately run centres. It hopes to raise the number of visitors to such centres to 1.7 million by establishing 18 new centres in 18 governorates. The Centres include principal clinics, subsidiary clinics and mobile services.

2. Parental responsibility

153. Article 18 of the Egyptian Personal Status Act stipulates that child maintenance is the responsibility of the father, in the case of girls until they are married or until they earn a living, in the case of boys until they are 15 and able to earn an adequate living; in case a boy attains the age of 15 unable to earn a living or if he has a physical or mental disability or is engaged in studies, the father would continue to be responsible for his maintenance. Fathers must keep their children and provide them with lodging within their means, securing for them a standard of living suitable for their peers.

154. Working mothers are helped to combine work and home responsibilities by the many nurseries that are to be found, particularly in the cities. In accordance with Act No. 50 of 1977, these establishments cater for children under six. This Act lays down specifications for these nurseries so that they can accomplish the aim of providing children with care and a proper upbringing, prepare them for life and develop their talents and abilities. Although the rationale for establishing these nurseries was originally linked to the entry of women into the workforce, they have managed, none the less, to contribute significantly to the social upbringing of children in this age group, making up for deficiencies in family abilities, particularly in the country. Nurseries have become popular; there are 4,400 such establishments including 1,056 set up by individuals, factories or companies. They serve a total of 382,000 children under six representing a mere 3.8 per cent of children in this age group, according to 1991 population estimates. Ministry of Education kindergartens absorb part of the 4-6 age group, but they are not sufficient and must be expanded and developed, particularly since they exist mostly in country areas deprived of nursery and other related services.

155. Other educational establishments that play an important role in providing social and cultural care for children are children's clubs. These serve children in the 6 to 15 age group and tend to complement the work of both family and school in free time during holidays and vacations. Children go to the clubs for sports and cultural activities under the supervision of specialists. They also have access to computers and other equipment in some clubs.

156. There are 215 such clubs with a membership of about 26,000 children, an average of 120 per club. The clubs are run by the private social development and care societies active in the areas of family and childhood. Coverage is

obviously minimal, a mere 0.2 per cent, especially in view of the size of the age group the clubs are supposed to serve: 11.8 million children. This calls for expansion in services and for an increase in the rate of absorption, within the limit of available resources.

157. The year 1985 was declared Library Year in recognition of the importance attached to the development of the personality and talents of children, particularly those in the compulsory education stage, both primary and preparatory (6-14 years). That was also a contribution towards securing for children appropriate environments - libraries - conducive to the exercise of cultural and artistic activities, not to mention books and publications. The libraries usually organize trips, cultural tours, competitions, and games for entertainment and skill development. These libraries are established within either children's clubs or family and childhood societies in the various parts of the Republic. There exist 176 such libraries serving around 17,600 children; 5 of these libraries are mobile. Further expansion of this service is planned, particularly in rural areas where social development and care societies, to which they will be attached, are active.

3. Separation from parents

158. The State seeks by all means to keep children in the custody of their parents except in cases of dire compulsion. Even in the case of an imprisoned mother the Prisons Regulatory Act No. 396 (art. 19) stipulates that "a pregnant mother must be treated well from the sixth month of her pregnancy, particularly with respect to food, work, and sleep, until she gives birth and for 40 days afterwards". Adequate care should be provided for mothers and their children in terms of health care, appropriate clothing and comfort. A detained pregnant woman or mother may not be deprived of her ration of food for whatever reason.

159. Article 20 of the same Act provides for a child to "remain with his mother until he reaches the age of two. Should she not wish him to stay with her or when he reaches the age of two, he shall be handed over to his father or to any relative of the mother's choice. In the absence of a father or relatives the Prison Administration is bound to notify the mother and facilitate her seeing him".

160. Normal practice in cases of divorce was for the mother to have custody of the male child until the age of seven. The judge could extend this custody until the age of nine if he deemed it in the interest of the child. For girls, custody was until the age of 9 unless the judge wished to extend it until the age of 11 if this proved in the interest of the girl.

161. Custody disputes have demonstrated, however, that children need stability, security, and tranquillity unthreatened by sudden uprooting. Therefore, a proposal has been formulated to end mothers' custody of male children at 10 and of girls at 12. The judge would be empowered to leave the

boy with his mother until the age of 15 and to keep the girl in her mother's custody until she, the girl, marries, in accordance with the doctrine of Malik. However, custody here does not entitle the custodian to a maintenance allowance but only to costs of keeping the child, covering his food, clothes, lodging, education, treatment, and whatever else is dictated by common practice within the means of the father or whoever is acting in his place.

162. A mother's custody of children, whether male until the age of 10 or female until the age of 12, does not absolve the father of responsibility for them or limit his legal authority over them. He remains in charge of their affairs; the custodian's role is to keep and bring up and she may undertake urgent matters that bear no delay such as medical treatment and school enrolment, with due consideration for the means of the father.

163. The proposal provides, moreover, for the right of both parents to have access to the child; the right is passed on to grandparents in the absence of parents by virtue of their being ascendants.

164. In case of difficulty in reaching agreement on times of access, the judge would work out arrangements on condition that visits are not made in places harmful to the children such as police stations. The right of parents to see their children is well established in Islamic shariah in accordance with the Koranic dictum "blood relations must be close to one another" (The Booty IX:8:75). The proposal prohibits, however, any enforcement by force of a visiting order in order to prevent causing harm to children. Should a custodian refrain to implement a judge's visiting order he would be served notice by the judge, and should he persist without excuse the judge would issue a mandatory ruling transferring custody to the next in line for a period which he sets at his discretion.

165. The custody transfer order is enforceable immediately in accordance with article 345 of the Islamic Law Courts statute. The proposal lists custodians in order of their entitlement on the strength of their relationship as stipulated by the law and as has been practised in accordance with the teachings of the Hanafi doctrine.

4. Family reunification

166. There is no special provision for children in this regard, but Act No. 97 of 1959 stipulates that every Egyptian has the right to obtain a passport that entitles him to travel abroad and back. Adults in the employ of the State need prior approval from their work authorities. Children do not. A ban on travel may be imposed only at the request of special quarters, including the courts. the Public Prosecutor, the Socialist Public Prosecutor, the Public Security Department and General and Military Intelligence authorities. Appeals against travel ban orders are possible before an administrative committee.

167. Article 1 of Act No. 111 of 1983 provides for the right of all Egyptians to emigrate abroad, alone or in groups, permanently or temporarily, for whatever purpose, and to keep their Egyptian nationality. Children have these rights too, subject to the custodian's approval.

5. Recovery of maintenance for the child

168. The Egyptian Personal Status Act stipulates (art. 16 (i)) that maintenance for mothers and children is determined on the basis of the husband's circumstances at the time of settlement. However, in cases of financial difficulty maintenance must not fall short of meeting essential needs. The judge may, once reasons and terms for maintenance are established, order, within two weeks of the filing of the suit, the immediate payment of maintenance from court funds temporarily until the passing of a mandatory ruling in the case (please refer to section 2 above for details on terms and duration of maintenance). There is nowhere in the law a special provision for obtaining maintenance from a parent or guardian who happens to be outside the country. A maintenance court order is normally enforced on his return.

6. Children deprived of a family environment

169. Egyptian studies have proved that children deprived of family care suffer from an imbalance in psychological development, whether the deprivation is occasional by separation by divorce or permanent by the death or illness of the provider, or by difficult economic circumstances preventing parents from providing care for their children.

170. The ensuing consequences are psychological and social maladjustment, aggressive behaviour, a rise in the rate of anxiety, depression, smoking, addiction, delinquency, violation of school discipline and incompatibility with family and neighbours. It has also been established that the lack of family care obstructs mental development and scholastic achievement. Exposure to anxiety, moreover, is greater among children in broken homes than in stable family environments. Government authorities make every effort to compensate those deprived from care by providing them with something approximating family care. There are projects for the establishment of custodial nurseries, alternative families and custodial institutions for stray children, orphans, children of unknown parentage, foundlings and others. They are to be provided with educational, psychological and health care from age 0 to 6 with custodial placement after that in alternative families or custodial establishments. By the end of the five year plan 1986/87-1991/92 the number of custodial nurseries will have reached 20. Alternative families willing to provide care for such children are approved for the purpose following a social investigation to determine suitability for the task. It is to be noted that 89.6 per cent of alternative care cases are in the Alexandria governorate followed by Cairo with 22.8 per cent. This type of service does not exist in the Red Sea, New Valley, and North and South Sinai governorates.

171. Custodial institutions host the same category of family-care-deprived children between the ages of 6 and 18, and provide them with all the care, services and programmes that they need to become good citizens and to protect them from delinquency. There are 154 such institutions catering for some 4,957 children, most of whom are orphans or from broken homes or products of poor economic conditions. There are several governorates with no custodial institutions (Ismailia, Suez, Red Sea, New Valley, Matrub and North Sinai). This calls for a study of the problem in these governorates to assess needs for such institutional services.

172. The Social Security Act provides for allowances for certain categories of children. The Act defines a family as a group composed of husband, wife and children or any of these living together, not necessarily in the same place of residence. Article six of this Act lists those entitled to monthly allowances. They include: fatherless orphans, fatherless orphans whose mothers have remarried, children of unknown parent or parents, children of a divorced woman in case of her death, marriage or imprisonment, and children of prisoners serving terms of more than 10 years.

173. One of the shortcomings of the Act are the meagre sums allotted to beneficiaries which have remained unchanged despite inflation, particularly in recent years.

7. Adoption

174. The Egyptian Government recorded its reservation regarding the right to adoption when it ratified the Convention. Adoption is illegal in Islamic shariah.

8. Illicit transfer and non-return

175. The kidnapping of children for the purpose of sending them abroad is unknown in Egypt. Consequently, there are no statistics on this phenomenon. However, measures exist to prevent and confront such practices.

9. Abuse and neglect including physical and psychological recovery and social reintegration

176. Under Egyptian law any assault on an individual is considered a felony or a crime, depending on the extent of harm ensuing therefrom, regardless of the age of the victim. The law stipulates that sexual contact with anyone under 16 is an offence justifying prosecution. Such acts of assault, whether by beating or by sexual contact or in any other form, are viewed as offences whether the perpetrators are parents, relations, or others.

177. Under article 23 of the Juveniles Act No. 31/74 anyone who exposes a juvenile to the dangers of delinquency is punishable by imprisonment for no less than three months. Act No. 10 of 1961 makes prostitution, regardless of age, a crime and increases the punishment if the offence involves persons under 21 years of age.

178. In general the excessive physical or psychological abuse or neglect of children by their parents or by others is not widespread in Egyptian society and when it does occur it does so in isolated individual cases.

10. Periodic review of placement

179. Custodial institutions and alternative care families are subject to continued Ministry of Social Affairs supervision. The Ministry has specialized departments for the purpose such as the Department of Childhood and Family, the Department of Social Institutions and the Department of Juvenile Delinquency. Qualified social experts serve in these departments and are in charge of supervising the various establishments. The Ministry lays down the criteria for each of them. The social experts submit to the Ministry reports on their inspection visits. Institutions violating rules and criteria in force are served with the appropriate notices.

180. Despite the availability of the above-mentioned services, there exist many gaps and difficulties which include:

(a) The non-availability of precise statistics on the various categories of children in need of care;

(b) The insufficiency of institutions to meet the needs of all children requiring services;

(c) The limited State allocations which should be raised to enable the institutions to render services of adequate standard;

(d) The inadequate qualification of staff working in such institutions and the lack of training programmes for them.

181. The next State Five-Year Plan 1992/93-1997/98 aims at accomplishing the following:

(a) The realization of economic, social, and legal conditions conducive to the attainment of secure family life;

(b) Support for the productive family project as a means of raising family income;

(c) Training women to practise certain trades to help them find new work opportunities, by expanding productive family training centres and creating new units for designing new development and modernization patterns and for skill development;

(d) The expansion of development service provided for women in general and rural women in particular, by extending support to the following projects: rural women development centres, training in income-generating skills and training rural women in development and family planning;

(e) Expansion of services available to working women and support for the working woman service project;

(f) Expansion of family guidance and counselling offices and increased attention to preventive family services;

(g) Expansion of the family planning services improvement project and the extension of services to governorates without any. The aim is to reduce fertility through increased use of family planning methods;

(h) The creation of appropriate environments for integrated pre-school child care in areas deprived of services through the implementation of the relevant project;

(i) The establishment of nurseries in villages deprived of such services;

(j) Increased interest in regional child culture with emphasis on village children. For this purpose, children's libraries would be established in local unit headquarters in major villages;

(k) The provision of adequate places for provincial and village children to practise sports and cultural and social activities. This would be done through the further establishment of children's clubs and parks;

(l) Increased attention to rational upbringing and to the implanting of organized scientific thinking. The establishment of more nurseries, children's libraries, and children's clubs;

182. The following are the statistics available on a number of child categories. They show several deficiencies, particularly with regard to classification according to sex or to city or country. The National Council for Childhood and Motherhood will fill the missing gaps when it completes its childhood and motherhood database.

(a) Institutions for children deprived of family care

183. The family is the normal place for the care and upbringing of children. However, some families may face circumstances limiting their ability to undertake that task properly. This makes it necessary to establish institutions to provide care and services to these children as well as programmes designed to prepare them to be good citizens. The institutions usually consist of a school, a workshop and a courtyard.

Distribution of children in institutions according to sex

Sex	Males	Females	Total
Number	2,737	2,220	4,957

Distribution of cases in institutions according to reasons for placement and their percentages

Reason for placement	Loss of both parents	Loss of father	Loss of mother	Unknown parentage	Divorce or separation	Illness of provider	Economic problems	Other
Number	407	1 640	813	392	579	167	711	248
Percentage	8.2	33.1	16.4	7.9	11.7	3.4	14.3	500

Indicators show that loss of parents represents the largest category followed by economic problems and family breakup.

Distribution of cases in institutions for children deprived of care according to age

Age	Under six	6 to 9	9 to 12	12 to 15	15 to 18	18 and above
Number	39	1 429	235	1 349	1 036	869
Percentage	0.8	28.7	4.7	37.2	20.9	17.6

The figures show that the largest percentage of children in these institutions is in the 6 to 9 category followed by the 12 to 15 and 15 to 18 groups and then by the 18 and above.

(b) Children under alternative care

184. The State provides child care where circumstances prevent families from providing it. It does so by placing children in permanent residence in institutions where the requisites for decent living are available. Otherwise, the State may place the children with alternative families willing to provide care for children. This is done following a social investigation to determine the suitability of the proposed alternative families for the task.

Alternative family cases according to category

Category	Foundling	Broken home children	Stray children	Illegitimate children	Total
Number	2 973	475	119	7	3 574
Percentage	83.2	13.3	3.3	0.2	

Project cases according to age

Age	Under 3	3-6	6-12	12-15	15-18	18-21	Over 21
Number	984	902	568	378	295	243	204
Percentage	27.5	25.2	15.9	10.6	8.3	6.8	5.7

Project cases according to care venue

Alternative families		Nurseries or custodial institutions	Total
Paid	Unpaid		
1 182	1 535	857	3 574

(c) Juvenile care institutions

185. These aim at providing institutional and non-institutional care for juvenile delinquents and to place them under observation and control. They also provide a whole range of health, psychological, social and occupational services. There exist several types of institutions.

Juveniles in custodial establishments according to age
(end of 1989)

Age groups:	Under 7	7-12	12-15	15-18	18-21
Number:	16	162	304	451	359
Percentage:	1.0	13	24	35	27

186. The various institutions undertake the training of children under this care internally or externally. They place some in employment and follow up their career until they readjust to society. In 1989, a total of 1,292 juveniles were trained and 50 were placed in employment.

(d) Care institutions for female minors

187. These aim at providing protection for female minors placed in them. They provide health, psychological and cultural care. There were five such institutions in 1989.

Female minors according to reasons for placement, 1989

Reasons for placement:	Victims of assault	Exposed to delinquency	Prostitution	Other
Number:	4	57	35	24
Percentage:	3	48	29	20

Female minors according to age
(end of 1989)

Age group:	Under 12	12-15	15-18	18-21	Over 21
Number:	-	38	27	19	36
Percentage:	-	32	23	15	30

188. Certain studies have been made using a few samples with regard to children referred to in the previous item. However, it is too early to make any generalizations on the basis of these studies.

F. Basic health and welfare

189. The Ministry of Health, together with its various organs, the health insurance establishment, the curative establishment and the general pharmaceutical corporation, bear the major burden of child health care services extended through an integrated health care and service network embodied in the following:

(a) Ministry of Health units which total 4,159 and which include rural health groups and units (2,621), urban health centres, motherhood and childhood centres, health offices, public and central hospitals (1,197) and school health units (341);

(b) Curative establishment hospitals totalling 20;

(c) Health insurance units (141) and several hospitals (24).

190. The child health service strategies include the following:

(a) The provision of basic health care in rural and urban areas, with complete accessibility for all children;

(b) Raising the standard of health services available for children in basic health services units both in rural and urban areas, with the raising of the level of rural services to that of urban areas;

(c) The provision of integrated health care for all school-age children in the schools;

(d) The provision of preventive health services for all the children of Egypt throughout the State;

(e) The provision of tertiary curative care for all the children of Egypt as required;

(f) The promotion of the health insurance system to permit the treatment of every child in the country regardless of cost and without regard to his financial abilities.

1. Survival and development

(a) Basic legislation

191. The State guarantees the protection of childhood, provides care for children and creates proper conditions for bringing them up properly. Egyptian legislation includes several articles concerned with the protection and maintenance of child health which, as the law stipulates, should be free.

192. The Law on the Practice of Obstetrics No. 481 of 1954 prohibits the practice of obstetrics by anyone other than a doctor or a licensed nurse (arts. 1-18).

193. The Civil Record Act provides for reporting births to the health department within eight days of delivery. The health-related significance of this is the subsequent immunization of the child against childhood diseases.

194. The Infectious Diseases Act (Presidential Decree No. 137 of 1958) provides for the immunization of children against contagious diseases. Several ministerial decisions regulate the implementation of the Act (Minister of Health decisions).

195. Ministerial decisions also govern the status of foundlings and other children removed from their parents until the age of two. The decisions provide for full health care for these children (Minister of Health Decision No. 170 of 1986).

196. The National Council for Childhood and Motherhood has collected all laws and provisions governing child health with a view to updating them. They will be submitted in a single bill to the People's Assembly.

(b) Main administrative procedure

197. Health authorities have a wide array of preventive, curative and rehabilitive programmes for health development in the child sector. They aim at the following:

(a) To provide prenatal health care for mother and foetus;

(b) To secure prenatal and postnatal care;

(c) To provide health care for newborns;

(d) To provide health care for pre-school children and implementation of immunization programmes against contagious diseases;

(e) To provide health care to school-age children;

(f) To provide all three levels of curative services;

(g) To provide rehabilitation services for the health-impaired;

(h) To provide family planning services;

(i) To develop child and mother health and nutrition awareness;

(j) To provide health counselling for couples intending marriage to forestall hereditary diseases.

198. The objectives of the Child Health Care Programme in Egypt for the period 1992-1997 include the following:

(a) Reduction of mortality rates among children and infants under 5:

(i) Reduction of infant mortality rates caused by diarrhoea from 12 per 1,000 to 8 per 1,000 by 1995 and respiratory infections from 13 per 1,000 to 8 per 1,000 by the year 2000;

(ii) Reduction of children's mortality rates (1-4) caused by diarrhoeal diseases from 2.2 per 1,000 to 1.4 per 1,000 by 1995 and those caused by respiratory infections from 3 per 1,000 to 1.4 per 1,000 by the year 2000;

(b) Reduction of infectious disease incidence amongst children under six:

(i) Eradication of poliomyelitis by the year 1994;

(ii) Elimination of tetanus neonatorum by 1994;

(iii) Reduction of tuberculosis, measles, pertussis and diphtheria incidence through the maintenance of a 90 per cent child immunization coverage;

(iv) Initiation of immunization against hepatitis B for all newborns;

(c) Reduction of infection rates with common and epidemic diseases among school-age children (6-18) through:

(i) Reduction of bilharzia incidence rates;

(ii) Reduction of rheumatic fever incidence rates;

(iii) Preventive measures against tuberculosis, diphtheria, tetanus and meningitis infections including immunization and awareness programmes;

(d) Protection of the foetus in the prenatal and perinatal periods through:

(i) Raising the ratio of expectant mothers visiting mother and childhood centres to an 85 per cent level by 1997;

(ii) Providing nutritional care for pregnant women;

(iii) Raising tetanus immunization rates among pregnant women to 90 per cent by 1994 as a preliminary to eradicating tetanus neonatorum;

(iv) Providing medical care for 85 per cent of deliveries by 1997;

(v) Training service providers at motherhood and childhood centres and at basic health units on how to conduct safe deliveries and to provide perinatal health care;

(e) Family planning and birth control through:

(i) Discouraging girls from early marriage;

(ii) Spacing of children to allow time for sufficient care for the newborn;

(iii) Raising the rate of contraceptive use from 37.5 per cent to 60 per cent among women of childbearing age;

(f) Maintenance of steady efforts to preserve a healthy environment and to secure safe healthy food through the continued monitoring of food and drinking water and through thorough investigations on the outbreak of epidemics with a view to controlling and managing them.

2. Disabled children

199. The State has passed a certain amount of legislation on handicapped children aiming at providing them with care and protecting them against any act that might cause harm or damage to their health and to their physical, spiritual or social development.

200. The health and social and worker care legislation contains provisions for the protection of the handicapped. Special legislation has been enacted making it mandatory for government departments to employ a certain proportion of handicapped persons.

201. The Council for Childhood and Motherhood has established a working party of senior consultants and legal experts to draft an integrated childhood law. One part of this legislation is devoted to the handicapped.

202. The protection of children from disability and the provision of care for the handicapped are the responsibility of specialized staff in a number of ministries including the Ministries of Health, Social Affairs and Education.

203. Health care provided by the Ministry of Health to the handicapped includes preventive and curative services along the following lines:

(a) Preventive health units including motherhood and childhood centres carry out work to prevent possible disabilities by providing care for expectant mothers and subjecting them to checks and tests for early detection of disability-causing diseases such as German measles and others. The units also undertake medical supervision of deliveries to prevent perinatal disability-causing complications. Moreover, they are responsible for vaccinations aimed at the prevention of childhood infections;

(b) Expansion of diet-awareness campaigns to prevent malnutrition-caused mental and physical disabilities;

(c) Treatment of disabilities to reduce their degree. Such work is undertaken by specialized centres such as the Polio Institute, the Deaf Institute and physiotherapy centres;

(d) Social care for the handicapped is provided by the Ministry of Social Affairs through social rehabilitation centres, disabled persons centres, physiotherapy clinics, compensatory aid factories, intellectual development establishments and handicapped children nurseries;

(e) Educational services for the handicapped are provided by the Ministry of Education which runs special schools suited to their disabilities;

(f) The Society for Integrated Care, which is headed by the wife of the President of the Republic, has been adverting considerable attention to handicapped children. Its concern has included the need to modernize and upgrade the level of the services of the various institutions.

204. Despite the huge efforts made in the area of providing care for the handicapped, many difficulties stand in the way of disability prevention and care, difficulties that only the State can overcome. In many cases it is difficult to reach the pregnant women to detect disability-forming abnormalities. Pregnancy health care coverage must be expanded; too many deliveries still take place away from specialized health agencies. Medical care must cover all deliveries to prevent perinatal disability-causing complications.

205. Medical care for handicapped children is centred in the major cities. Expansion to other centres and to remote rural areas is imperative. Schools for the handicapped are still too few and are also centred in the capital; there is need for at least one in each governorate.

206. Rehabilitation centres, physiotherapy clinics and compensatory aid factories are still inadequate, both quantitatively and qualitatively. New centres should be established and existing centres need to be developed.

3. Health and health services

(a) Organization of health services

207. The Ministry of Health bears the burden for all child preventive health services and for the major part of curative services. The services are provided by the Ministry of Health and its dependent authorities along the following lines.

208. The Ministry is headed by the Minister who is assisted by two first under-secretaries, one for the preventive sector and the other for the curative sector. Under these come a number of under-secretaries, each of whom is responsible for a number of technical departments.

209. The departments in the Ministry are the highest authorities in their areas of specialization. The Department of Motherhood and Childhood, for instance, is the technical authority in charge of supervising the implementation of the motherhood and childhood programme in all the different units concerned. Supervision here is technical rather than administrative.

210. Each of Egypt's 26 governorates has its own health department which is officially called the Directorate of Health Affairs. It is headed by an under-secretary or a director-general, depending on the size of the governorate. Each directorate director is assisted by a number of technical directors, one of whom would be a mother and child care director. He exercises technical supervision over mother and child programmes in all the directorate units and has technical and administrative control over all mother and child care centres in the governorate. The directorate director is responsible technically to the Minister of Health, who appoints him. Administratively he answers to the Governor.

211. Each district centre has a health department, headed by a director who answers technically and administratively to the director of the Directorate of Health Affairs. His functions are to exercise technical and administrative supervision over health units within the centre area including basic health service units in rural and urban areas.

212. Health units providing health services to children are the following.

213. In rural areas, the Rural Child Care Programme works through 2,731 units, including 2,153 rural health units, 472 village health groupings and 106 village hospitals. There is an average of one unit per 1.5 villages or one unit per every 11,200 people.

214. All these units provide promotive, preventive and curative health activities through the following health programmes:

(a) Health education;

(b) Motherhood and childhood care and family planning. This programme covers prenatal mother and foetus care, perinatal medical care, and child care up to school age;

(c) School health;

(d) Infectious disease control and immunization;

(e) Endemic disease control with special emphasis on bilharzia;

(f) Environment health, food and drinking water control;

(g) Medical care including dental care and first aid;

(h) Birth and death registration.

215. Health services in rural areas are not confined to this network of units. There exist other outlets including private doctor clinics and private pharmacies. District centre hospitals and general hospitals in the cities provide medical services for cases requiring more advanced health care than is available through the rural health service network.

216. In urban areas, the urban child care programme works through 1,404 units and hospitals including 196 general and central hospitals, 188 specialized hospitals, 220 motherhood and childhood care centres, 130 urban health centres, 353 health offices and 317 school health units.

217. Motherhood and childhood care centres provide the following services:

(a) Prenatal care;

(b) Normal uncomplicated deliveries;

(c) Child care up to school age (six years).

218. Urban centres provide all basic health care services that are provided by village units.

219. Health offices provide the following services: communicable disease control, environment promotion, food and water supervision and birth and death registration.

220. School health units provide preventive and curative services for school children as well as school environment improvement services.

(b) Health care difficulties and requirements

221. Health services encounter many difficulties despite attempts by the State to forestall them. Required are the following:

(a) Increasing medically supervised deliveries, particularly since the State has provided an extensive health service network in both rural and urban areas;

(b) Adverting more attention to home visits with particular reference to deliveries and neonatals. Following up on immunizations and on mothers who have stopped calling at the centres;

(c) Extending attention to the physical and mental growth of the child; weight- and height-taking, assessing intellectual growth indicators and recording data in the child's health card. Advising mothers on the need for alertness to any deviations from the norm;

(d) Securing the availability of serums and vaccines on all days of the week and in all parts of the country no matter how distant from health unit headquarters;

(e) Provision of up-to-date vaccines for diseases of recent incidence such as the vaccine for hepatitis B;

(f) Securing the availability of basic drugs for the treatment of children, particularly medicines for respiratory infections and diarrhoea. The drugs should be dispensed free of any charge for the needy;

(g) Securing the basic requirements for paediatric care such as delivery rooms in village units and in motherhood and childhood care centres;

(h) Securing the availability of means of contact and communication between units. Securing the necessary means of transport for inspectors;

(i) Promoting health awareness among mothers regularly visiting the health units, and among others;

(j) The universal use of the child health card which should accompany him until puberty;

(k) Raising the standard of performance of current child health services and moving towards integrating them with other services such as cultural and educational services. Consideration of the total development of the child through the total health, educational, cultural and economic development of the family and society.

4. Cooperation between private and government health institutions and services

222. The Ministry of Health undertakes full responsibility for preventive care and a major part of the curative care. In both areas, there is collaboration with government establishments, the public and private sectors and the trade unions.

223. The Ministry collaborates with the following government bodies:

(a) Faculties of medicine and their teaching hospitals;

(b) The Teaching Hospitals Authority;

(c) The Medical Insurance Authority;

(d) The General Authority for therapeutic products in Cairo and the governorates;

(e) The Railway Authority Hospitals;

(f) The Pharmaceuticals Authority.

224. Collaboration also takes place with the following associations in the extension of services, in the training of technical staff, and in the provision of equipment:

(a) The Medical Associations;

(b) The Pharmacists Unions;

(c) The Dental Associations;

(d) The Nursing Unions.

225. The Ministry also collaborates with the following private medical bodies in the fields of training and the provision of curative services:

(a) Private and syndical hospitals;

(b) Private doctors' clinics.

226. The private sector is currently involved in the provision of a major part of curative services, particularly in Cairo and provincial capitals. There are at present several private hospitals with hundreds of beds offering highly advanced treatment.

227. Collaboration among the various sectors is effected at the central level between the Minister of Health on the one hand and the heads of unions, associations and authorities on the other. At the decentralized level collaboration is effected in the governorate between association branches, health directorates and private sector clinics and hospitals.

228. Social services play an important role in the health sector. Social services are available at all maternal and child care centres, school health units and at general, central and chest hospitals. Social service specialists undertake house visits, study the social circumstances of children and help solve the problem of foundlings and extend care to sick children with critical social problems and children in families with infectious diseases such as tuberculosis or leprosy and mental health cases.

G. Education, leisure and cultural activities

1. Basic legislation in the field of children's education

229. The Egyptian Constitution provides for free education as a right for every Egyptian. Articles 18, 20, and 21 provide for the following:

(Article 18)

Education is a right guaranteed by the State. It is obligatory in its primary stage and the State shall work to extend this obligation to other stages. The State shall supervise all branches of education and guarantee the independence of universities and scientific research centres, with a view to linking all this with the requirements of society and productions.

(Article 20)

Education in the State educational institutions shall be free of charge in its various stages.

(Article 21)

Combating illiteracy shall be a national duty for which all the people's energies shall be mobilized.

230. The Education Act No. 39 of 1981 amended by Act 233 of 1988 states:

"Article 15: Basic education shall be the right of every Egyptian child who has attained the age of six. The State shall provide it and parents or custodians are bound to abide by it, for the duration of eight years. Governors, each within the range of his competence, shall enact the regulations necessary for the organization of the implementation by parents and custodians of the obligatory provision at the governorate level. They shall also issue such regulations as are necessary for the distribution of the children in the governorate in basic education schools. Subject to availability of places, the admission age may be reduced to five and half years, provided prescribed class sizes are not affected.

Article 16: Basic education aims at the development of pupils' capacities and potentials, at the fulfilment of their inclinations and at providing them with the necessary degree of values, manners, knowledge and practical and vocational skills consistent with the conditions prevailing in the various environments as to enable those who complete the basic education stage to either further pursue their education at a higher level or face life following intensive vocational training, the purpose being to prepare the individual to be a productive citizen in his environment and society.

Article 19: Should the child fail to present himself to the school on the designated date or should he fail to attend for 10 inconsecutive or consecutive days, the principal of the school shall address a warning in writing to his father or custodian as the case may be.

The father or custodian shall sign the letter on receiving it. Should he be absent or should he refuse to receive the notice the letter shall be handed to the mayor or to the police station for delivery to the father or custodian. Should the child still fail to present himself to the school one week after receipt of the letter, or should he again absent himself for unacceptable reasons, his father shall be considered in contravention of the provisions of this law and shall be liable to the penalties provided for in article 21 of this law.

Article 20: Basic education school principals and others delegated for the purpose by the governor from the Technical Supervision and Inspection Department shall have judicial status in connection with the enforcement of mandatory education.

Article 21: Any father or custodian of a child who fails to attend school or absents himself without an acceptable excuse following the receipt of the letter provided for in article 19 of this law, shall be liable to punishment by a fine of 10 pounds. The fine and punishment shall be repeated continually for as long as the child fails to attend or absents himself without acceptable reasons following the warning of his father or custodian.

Article 22: The secondary education stage aims at preparing students for life along with preparing them for higher and university education or for participation in public life, or for the consolidation of religious, behavioural, and national values.

Article 23: The period of study in the secondary education stage is three years. To be admitted to the first years of secondary education, a student must have completed the basic education stage and must not be over 18 years of age as of October of the relevant academic year. The Minister of Education shall issue regulations to govern exceptions from this age limit."

2. Education in Egypt

231. The child in Egypt goes through three educational stages:

(a) The preschool stage. The total number of children benefiting from this is 199,000 representing 6.6 per cent of all children in the 4-6 age group. This leaves room for improvement. The number of kindergartens is 1,075 containing 5,002 classes with an average of 40 children in each, which is very high and requires attention to provide greater individual care for children. The number of teaching staff in kindergartens is 7,989 with a child/teacher ratio of 25, an improvement on the 1980/81 ratio of 41.2.

Some data and indicators of kindergartens

Year	Number of children	Percentage of females	Number of schools	Number of classes	Pupil/class ratio	Number of teachers	Pupil/teacher ratio
1980-81	74 921	49.1	433	1 660	45.1	1 819	41.2
1985-86	128 272	48.6	602	3 033	42.3	4 202	30.5
1989-90	177 740	48.4	936	4 370	40.7	6 087	29.2
1990-91	198 742	48.6	1 075	5 002	39.7	7 989	24.9

Source: Department of Statistics and the Computer, Ministry of Education.

(b) The basic education stage. This stage encompasses the primary and preparatory education stages and treats them as a single eight-year educational stage (a five-year primary stage and a three-year preparatory stage). Statistics for 1990-1991 show the number of pupils in this stage to have been about 10,000,000 children, representing 17.9 per cent of the total population in that year. Primary education enrolment is 6.4 million pupils in 15,082 schools with an average pupil class ratio of 43.7.

Data and indicators on primary education

Year	Number of children	Percentage of females	Number of schools	Number of classes	Pupil/class ratio	Number of teachers	Pupil/teacher ratio
1980-81	4 548 058	40.4	11 630	114 209	39.8	-	-
1985-86	6 002 850	43.4	13 233	136 649	43.9	130 192	46.1
1989-90	6 155 100	44.7	14 767	142 117	43.3	204 281	30.1
1990-91	6 402 472	44.8	15 082	146 420	43.7	276 374	23.2

Source: Department of Statistics and the Computer, Ministry of Education.

(c) The preparatory stage. Enrolment in the preparatory stage was about 3.5 million children in 1990-1991 in 5,588 schools with an average student/class ratio of 43.3. The percentage of male pupils tends to increase in the preparatory stage. According to 1990-1991 statistics, 55.6 per cent of the enrolment were male and 44.4 per cent female.

Data and indicators on the preparatory stage

Year	Number of pupils	Percentage of females	Number of schools	Number of classes	Pupil/class ratio	Number of teachers	Pupil/teacher ratio
1980-81	1 574 233	37.8	3 199	39 427	39.9	-	-
1985-86	2 135 007	40.3	3 475	51 454	41.5	84 570	25.2
1989-90	3 412 867	43.8	5 726 a/	78 784	43.3	125 050	27.2
1990-91	3 553 255	44.4	5 588 b/	82 069	43.3	154 202	23.0

Source: Department of Statistics and the Computer, Ministry of Education.

a/ Including 12 physical education and 311 vocational training schools.

b/ Including 14 physical education and 166 vocational training schools.

(d) The secondary education stage. This stage includes general secondary education and technical secondary education. Total enrolment in secondary education in the year 1990-1991 was about 576,000 students in 1,145 schools with student/class ratio of 36.5. Female representation drops here in relation to male participation. In 1990-1991, females made up 43.5 per cent of secondary school enrolment whereas males accounted for 56.5 per cent.

Data and indicators on general secondary education

Year	Number of students	Percentage of females	Number of schools	Number of classes	Pupil/class ratio	Number of teachers	Pupil/teacher ratio
1980-81	484 867	36.7	791	11 898	40.7	-	-
1985-86	569 366	37.5	906	14 262	39.9	27 104	21.5
1989-90	569 936	41.8	1 150	15 458	36.8	38 889	14.6
1990-91	576 435	43.5	1 145	15 813	36.5	48 369	11.9

Source: Department of Statistics and the Computer, Ministry of Education.

(e) Technical secondary education. Enrolment in Technical Secondary Education (commercial, agricultural, industrial and teacher training schools) totalled more than a million students in 1,506 schools with a student/class ratio of 35.1. In 1990-1991, male representation (56.7 per cent) was markedly higher than that of females (43.3 per cent).

Data and indicators on technical secondary education

Year	Number of students	Percentage of females	Number of schools	Number of classes	Pupil/class ratio	Number of teachers	Pupil/teacher ratio
1980-81	684 213	39.2	876	19 385	35.2	-	-
1985-86	961 986	41.7	1 012	26 843	35.8	54 885	17.5
1989-90	1 015 809	42.8	1 369	29 250	34.7	72 237	14.1
1990-91	1 072 509	43.3	1 506	30 559	35.1	83 724	12.8

Source: Department of Statistics and the Computer, Ministry of Education.

3. Problems in education

232. Education in Egypt faces numerous problems which have an impact on the efficiency of the educational process. Some of these problems are:

(a) Absorption of children into the educational system and the ensuing problems of wastage and illiteracy;

(b) School buildings and equipment;

(c) The quality of education in relation to curriculum development, teacher training, school management efficiency and test evaluation systems.

Each will be dealt with separately and in detail.

233. The gap between males and females is still there but narrowing. It is due to a number of economic factors, free education notwithstanding. We must also refer to a number of cultural factors.

(a) Total absorption, wastage and illiteracy

234. Absorption is one of the most urgent problems faced by primary education in Egypt. Absorption means the admission to school of every school-age child. Government commitment to absorption notwithstanding (the Constitution states that "education shall be obligatory at the primary and preparatory stages"), and despite the increase in the rates of absorption (77.5 per cent in 1974-75 and 96.2 per cent in 1987-88). The wastage rate in the educational process arising from non-absorption, particularly in the primary stage, remains high.

235. A study conducted by the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood has shown that to achieve a 100 per cent rate of absorption in primary education in the period from 1990-1991 to 1999-2000 we would need to create 50,808 new classes for the purpose.

236. Wastage in primary education is related to another primary education phenomenon, that of loss, which means the failure of the educational system to retain a number of pupils and to persuade them to successfully complete these courses. This loss manifests itself in two forms: non-promotion on account of failure and dropping out. Dropping out is defined as "total or partial interruption of studies by pupils in a way that does not fulfil the objectives prescribed for primary education".

237. Data published by the Central General Mobilization and Statistics Authority and the Ministry of Education indicates that the dropout rate fell from 4.1 per cent (184,000 children) in 1980-81 to 2.5 per cent (144,000 children) in 1984-1985.

238. Dropout factors are of two kinds: internal, such as:

(a) Inappropriate school location for some pupils;

(b) Lack of sufficient interest in curricula, strict methods of instruction emphasizing memory work and dictation and neglecting individual differences, and absence from the curricula of whatever prepares children for life and the future, particularly for those for whom education ends with their completion of the basic stage;

(c) Inadequate scientific and educational teacher qualification;

(d) Lack of school services in those primary schools located in rural and poor densely-populated areas;

and external ones, which relate to the economic, social, and cultural aspects of the life of the pupils' families, including:

(a) The low income of parents which drives them to send their children to work before they complete their education for the purpose of supplementing the family economic resources. This problem has acquired a sharper edge as

families have been forced to send their children to work in the fields in the absence of emigrant fathers and in view of the increase in farm worker wages;

(b) The dominant impact of customs and tradition prohibiting the teaching of girls for fear of mixing with boys;

(c) The low cultural level of rural and poor families.

239. Repeated failure in end-of-stage examinations, primary or preparatory, is a major reason for leaving school or for dropping out.

240. A study by the National Council on Education and Scientific Research conducted in 1991 indicated that out of a total of 13,787,600 children of compulsory education age, only 9.5 million were enrolled in basic education schools. This means that 25 per cent of compulsory-school-age children are joining the ranks of the illiterate.

241. Recent studies, therefore, now tend to argue that literacy campaigns in Egypt must now address themselves to the age group 15 to 30 years on the assumption that younger persons are the responsibility of the Ministry of Education compulsory education system. But the fact remains that basic education dropouts amount to 150,000 a year who, together with the 100,000 a year who never go to school in the first place, bring the total number of children who join the ranks of the illiterate each year to about 250,000.

(b) Building and educational equipment

242. The problem of providing buildings and school equipment is one of the major challenges facing Egyptian education today. No teaching process can be effective unless it secures a place for each child in basic education and each student in secondary education, both general and technical. Adequate buildings and equipment are essential for the realization of the following objectives:

(a) Absorption of all compulsory-school-age children;

(b) Reduction of the class/pupil ratio to 40 in the basic education stage and to 35 in secondary education;

(c) Abolition of the shift arrangement and a return to whole-day study.

243. The draft five year plan for educational reform in Egypt 1988/87-1991/92 estimates the number of classes needed to absorb all children expected to enrol in primary schools to be 35,375 classes. Only 27,100 classes are provided for in the plan, and only 6,413 were created in 1987/88, the remainder to be established in the four years that followed. The General Authority for Educational Buildings is responsible for the planning and construction of school buildings. It carries out field surveys in the various governorates and determines shortcomings. It also draws the educational buildings map in the governorates, and points to future needs. This Authority, however, faces several obstacles that obstruct the implementation of school building and equipment plans. These obstacles include the following:

(a) Inadequacy of funds to meet construction and maintenance costs;

(b) Lack of building sites, especially within the major cities, and the high cost of property;

(c) The prohibition on building on agricultural land.

244. All this is coupled with the short supply of equipment, instruments and other teaching material needed for the educational process in schools.

(c) Curriculum development and teacher training

245. The improvement of the quality of education is one of the central processes in the education development strategy in Egypt; quantitative expansion must be matched by qualitative expansion in all aspects of the educational process if this is to become effective. The improvement of inputs, i.e. curricula, aids, teachers and activities, tends necessarily to raise the standard of outputs, i.e. the individuals made and shaped to raise production and achieve development.

246. Curriculum development is considered the essence of endeavours to improve and raise the quality of education in Egypt. In kindergartens, curriculum development aims at attending to the personality of the child and preserving his or her national identity, as well as at facilitating his acquisition of information without unnecessary rote learning. It generally aims at building his character from all perspectives. Basic education curriculum improvement, on the other hand, aims at the introduction of occupational cultural subjects and at linking cultural courses such as language, arithmetic and social subjects to the environment in an attempt to provide a link between science and work and to provide the pupils with practical examples in order to develop their abilities to imagine and create. Some of the positive aspects of basic education in Egypt are:

(a) The diversity of curricula with the aim of providing pupils with knowledge and facts through theoretical subjects;

(b) The link between the requirements of basic education and those of society, accomplished through occupational education and practical exercises.

247. Negative aspects are:

(a) Major curriculum orientation towards end-of-year exams;

(b) Most basic education curricula are non-functional and far removed from the life and environment of the child and do not contribute to the development of society;

(c) Rural and urban curricula are uniform and do not account for local environments.

248. In-service teacher training is a major factor in raising the performance level of teachers and other educational staff and in increasing the efficiency of the teaching process.

249. Although the absorption capacity of the training plans worked out by the Ministry of Education 1990/91 provides for the training of as many as 21,665 persons, the share of basic education trainees was a mere 15.9 per cent of the total number of pre-university sector trainees. The plan made no provisions for kindergarten teachers and personnel.

250. A study made by the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood on raising the performance level of kindergarten and basic education teachers proposed a five-year training plan that includes a special programme for the training of kindergarten teaching staff and personnel. The first phase of the programme envisaged a basic four-year professional training scheme (1991/92-1994/95) with a coverage of up to 97.7 per cent, to be followed by a three year (1994/95-1996/97) booster training programme.

251. The study also proposes further expansion in the scheme to have primary school teachers qualify at the university level in an effort to improve basic education teacher performance. This would be done within a five-year plan (1991/92-1995/96) which envisages expansion in admissions on the one hand and an increase in training centres on the other.

(d) Development of the evaluation and testing system

252. Evaluation and testing are central to the teaching process, for they reveal the extent of effectiveness of actual teaching, of curricula, and of textbooks. They also test the effectiveness of testing and its ability to reveal points of weakness and strength. The testing system in Egypt requires changes that would ensure the development of the educational system in accordance with the following considerations:

(a) That tests should measure students' knowledge of the basic facts of any particular subject, his ability to follow the scientific approach on the use and application of these facts, his potential for creativity when solving problems, and his possession of the inclinations and values necessary for development and distinctive of productive citizens;

(b) To test students' skills and scientific and artistic capacities which are essential for their conducting scientific experiments and undertaking practical training;

(c) To include laboratory and scientific tests in science and technical subjects as well as in all practical areas.

253. Within the framework of the effort to develop the testing system, the Ministry of Education has initiated a Questions Bank Project which aims at:

(a) Preparing a new kind of question covering all levels of attainment and designed to measure the various skills to be implanted in students, the purpose being to prevent mere memory work and encourage the highest levels possible;

(b) Formulating questions that are comprehensive and that cover all kinds of objective testing;

(c) Supplying teachers with a repository of questions for use in the course of the teaching process and for later emulation;

(d) Training specialist staff in question and test formulation in the various study areas in accordance with the aims and descriptions of the individual courses.

(e) Technical education

254. According to the 1990/91 count, there were 1,385 technical secondary schools in Egypt with an enrolment of more than a million students (47 per cent in industrial technical, 40 per cent in commercial technical and 13 per cent in agricultural technical schools). The major problems faced by technical education are the following:

(a) The low social regard for technical education;

(b) Student channelling to technical education on the basis of grades rather than inclination and potential;

(c) Technical education is almost a dead-end form of education for many of its graduates who are not allowed to proceed to higher education;

(d) Technical education curricula and equipment have fallen behind developments in the production and service sectors;

(e) The absence of any link between labour market needs and the qualifications of technical education outputs. Many, particularly commercial secondary school graduates, are unemployed.

255. Consequently, and in the light of the above, the Services Committee of the Consultative Council has proposed the following measures:

(a) The development of all technical education curricula and renovation of facilities and equipment to meet the qualitative and quantitative demands of the production and services sectors;

(b) Raising technological training standards in all areas;

(c) Intensifying media efforts to change society's attitude towards technical education;

(d) Allowing outstanding technical school graduates to proceed to higher education;

(e) Prohibiting the practice of a number of trades and crafts without a license, following a national survey.

(f) Talented and outstanding students

256. The provision of special care for outstanding students is a major problem facing the existing educational systems, crippled as they are by the lack of talent detection devices and by the absence of any special programmes for the

talented. Also lacking is the opportunity to select special teachers for them and the possibility of devising the appropriate formulas either in the schools or within the educational departments seeking to provide the right services for the talented. Furthermore, there is a dearth of information and statistics regarding outstanding and talented students. In order to provide adequate care, however, the following measures are being considered:

(a) Efforts should continue to find an appropriate criterion for excellence that does not rely entirely on grades;

(b) Special curricula for the specially gifted;

(c) Increased attention to the development of management skills among collaborating individuals and bodies in order to enhance the prospects of success for the outstanding student ventures;

(d) Training of teachers for outstanding students and the refinement of their orientations and teaching methods.

(g) Handicapped children

257. There is another category of Egyptian child deserving further social attention: they are the handicapped. Estimates vary from 2 million according to the Polio Institute in 1986 to 5 million according to the latest study conducted by the Special Group and Handicapped Care Federation in 1990.

258. The Ministry of Education has been establishing special schools for the blind, the deaf and dumb, and for the mentally retarded. Although the numbers of handicapped children are huge, estimated at 2 million on average, the total handicapped enrolment in educational institutions does not exceed 10,600 attending special basic education schools (1990/91 statistics). The figure represents a mere 0.353 per cent of all handicapped children of basic education age.

259. Special education schools increased from 136 in 1980/81 in the basic education stage to 146 in 1990/91. Similarly, the number of students rose from 8,965 in 1986/87 to 10,600 in 1990/91, representing an increase of 18.2 per cent, less than the corresponding rate of increase of 50 per cent in the number of handicapped children which had jumped from 2 million to 3 million during the same period. The education sector needs to build more well-equipped special care schools in order to raise its actual absorption rates for handicapped children in the years to come.

4. Aims of education

260. The educational system is part of the overall State system which is affected in one way or another by changes in the international arena, changes that we cannot be too far removed from. The power of States is no longer measured by their arsenal of conventional weapons but by what they possess by way of advanced science and technology produced only by distinguished minds and highly cultivated scientific expertise.

261. Education is no ordinary service but one that should be seen in the context of economic reform policies which depend ultimately on the productivity of man which in turn depends largely on education and training. It should be viewed within the framework of the constitutional principles of State policy in the field of education which rests primarily on the concepts of compulsory education and free education. Education is a matter of grave consequence to the process of development and progress in the country and to its national security.

262. The Ministry of Education has defined its objectives as follows:

(a) To build and develop the Egyptian personality in such a way as to be able to adjust to a changing society locally and globally;

(b) To supply society with the necessary productive personnel who are capable of realizing comprehensive development in the various productive sectors;

(c) To prepare individuals for adjustment to new concepts that have affected Egyptian society economically, socially and culturally, and for the adoption of new policies for the realization of economic reform and total development;

(d) To realize for the Arab Republic of Egypt a leading scientific role at the international level through the training of a whole generation of scientists to make of Egypt a scientifically and technologically advanced State with a scientific status commensurate with its position in civilization.

263. The education strategy in the Third Five-Year Plan (1992/93-1996/97) contains the following points:

(a) Education for all with emphasis on basic education;

(b) Improvement of the quality of education with emphasis on future science;

(c) Expansion and promotion of technical education;

(d) The teacher;

(e) Education management.

(a) Education for all

264. The education strategy (the Third Five-Year Plan), aiming at increasing the democracy of education, has the following objectives:

(a) The attainment of total absorption in the compulsory basic education stage and the containment of wastage resulting from dropping out in an effort to foster basic education which represents the national security of the country;

(b) The distribution of educational services in all governorates and environments in order to accomplish balanced growth in the country;

(c) Collaboration with the Literacy Authority to implement the national literacy campaign in the light of the recent declaration by the President of the Republic of the years 1990-1999 as Literacy Decade in Egypt;

(d) The exercise of further supervision of government language schools and private education establishments in order to affirm the democracy of education;

(e) Affording equitable growth opportunities to all students with special attention to the gifted and the handicapped for the purpose of fostering citizens who have faith in their creed and nation and who are well versed in scientific thinking;

(f) Combating private lessons.

265. For the realization of these objectives, the Ministry of Education intends to take the measures listed below during the Third Five-Year Plan period.

266. The School Building Authority will secure adequate and sufficient school premises for the implementation of the education plan for the various stages and kinds with the aim of absorbing all children of compulsory school age and in a manner commensurate with the development policy. New buildings must replace those which have outlived their life-span, and schools long under construction must be completed. Classrooms, workshops, laboratories and other necessary facilities should be made available in order to enable students to engage in educational and social activities and in laboratory exercises. School equipment for classrooms and laboratories should be provided and maintenance of both equipment and schools ought to be carried out, for they constitute a national asset worthy of preservation.

267. In its literacy drive, the Ministry will carry out its responsibilities by undertaking the following tasks:

(a) Teacher training;

(b) Curriculum design and development;

(c) Textbook writing and provision;

(d) Opening and equipping learning centres for illiterates;

(e) Follow-up and supervision of literacy classes and centres and verification of credibility of literacy certificates, in particular;

(f) Effecting a link in Ministry classes and centres between literacy and vocational training, and the provision of needed equipment and installations. Extending support, equipment and material to the Halwan Adult Education Centre and the establishment of similar centres in the various governorates;

(g) Undertaking research and experiments for the advancement of literacy work.

268. The provision of opportunities for the establishment of private schools to help absorb pupils, particularly those of compulsory education age, with the tightening of supervision to ensure that such schools offer the same services as government schools.

269. Expansion of special education for the gifted pupils and the formulation of criteria for their selection and curricula compatible with their capabilities. Encouraging the gifted to be creative and innovative.

270. Expansion of services to handicapped children in all areas of incapacity, whether physical or mental. The provision of compensatory equipment in collaboration with other bodies concerned, and of educational, psychological and social care as well as suitably qualified teachers. These will receive further in-service training and the Ministry will follow up on efforts to help the students adapt personally and with society.

271. Combating the private lesson phenomenon by adverting attention to reinforcement groups and by developing radio and television educational programmes and by producing teaching material on video cassettes, as well as by improving class performance and promoting teachers' financial and moral status.

(b) Improvement of the quality of education

272. Since education aims at the realization of the integrated growth and welfare of students, attention must be adverted to the quality of information to be placed in the service of building their personality in such a way as to allow them to deduce, analyze and put to use data for the purpose of solving problems that face them so that they may come to terms with themselves and with their environment. For the purpose of improving the quality of education, the Ministry intends to accomplish a number of tasks within the Third Five-Year Plan. These are described below.

273. In the area of curriculum development, the Ministry's plan provides for planning, designing, preparing and experimenting with curricula and teaching material as well as adverting special attention to future sciences. The plan also provides for the development of staff capabilities both at the Ministry and the Curriculum Development Centre. It also calls for additional attention to preschool children's programmes.

274. In the area of text book development and production improvement, the Ministry aims at accomplishing the following:

(a) Completion by the start of academic year 1993/94 of the development of textbooks for the first cycle of basic education;

(b) Completion by the start of academic year 1994/95 of the development of textbooks for the second cycle of basic education;

(c) Completion of the development of secondary education textbooks by the start of academic year 1996/97;

(d) Making sure textbooks meet appropriate standards of production.

275. In the area of teaching aids, the Ministry plans to modernize the production of teaching materials to match developments in technology and curricula. It plans also to make use of cassettes and video cassettes, and to supply educational authorities in the governorates with the latest teaching aids necessary for the implementation of new curricula. It also plans to supervise the production of materials outside the Ministry to ascertain their suitability for use. Equipment repair and maintenance are also envisaged.

276. In the area of educational activities with all that they seek to accomplish for the body, health, knowledge, skill and moral development of students, the Ministry's Third Five-Year Plan provides for expansion in all areas of activities: cultural, athletic, artistic, musical, home economic, agricultural, social service and many others.

277. In the area of special groups (the gifted, talented, and handicapped), the Ministry plans to undertake the following:

(a) The preparation of curricula and textbooks appropriate for each of the groups, and the training of specialized staff both at home and abroad;

(b) Expansion of experimental physical education schools which help detect outstanding students in the field of sports.

278. In the area of evaluation and tests, the Ministry adopts current thinking which views educational assessment as a key to educational development, for it evaluates the effectiveness of curricula, textbooks, methodologies and student performance and points to necessary directions for change. The plan provides for the development of testing and evaluation to include epistemological, psychokinetic and moral aspects, and for the establishment of a test bank and network with training, research, and statistical analysis facilities.

279. The implementation of cultural exchange programmes and the convening of an international conference on curriculum and teaching material development and another on research and information systems.

280. The development of follow-up field work by educational directorates and department in all areas, and the designing of new performance evaluation cards.

(c) Expansion and promotion of technical education

281. Technical education is considered the cornerstone in the training of the manpower needed for the realization of development plans in the various production and services sectors. Hence the importance of setting it on the right course, both qualitatively and quantitatively, to direct it to serve the needs of the market and development plan requirements. Quantitative expansion aims at raising admissions to technical education to a level where they

account for 70 per cent of secondary school entrants in the course of the Third Five-Year Plan (1992/93-1996/97). Those admitted will be distributed as follows:

47 per cent in industrial technical schools
13 per cent in agricultural technical schools
40 per cent in commercial and administrative technical schools.

282. The distribution would be based on the principle of equality of opportunity and on the basis of grades obtained with consideration, at the same time, for student's individual inclinations and capabilities, and regard for the needs of local, Arab and international markets and technological change.

(d) The teacher

283. Teachers are the backbone of the educational process. Educational reforms and development are impossible to achieve except through the well-trained teacher. Consequently, the Ministry's Third Five-Year Plan aims at accomplishing the following in the area of teacher promotion:

(a) Professional educational training for new appointees;

(b) Enhancement of teacher in-service performance;

(c) Enhancement of technical inspector standards.

5. Leisure and cultural activities

284. Article 16 of the Egyptian Constitution reads as follows:

"The State shall guarantee cultural, social and health services, and work, in particular, to ensure their easy and regular provision in villages in order to raise their standards."

Similarly, the Egyptian Decade of the Child document stresses the importance of affording children a fair share of culture be it letters, arts, or information.

(a) Official organs working in the domain of culture

285. The Ministry of Culture is considered one of the most important bodies concerned with the provision of cultural services to children. It does so through:

(a) The National Centre for Child Culture which engages in research and studies. It has already published six volumes on child culture. Furthermore, it organizes periodic seminars on various aspects of child culture and produces outstanding specimens of artistic creation: plays, films and books;

(b) The General Authority for Palaces of Culture runs 245 palaces of culture in 26 governorates. Each such palace include a children's club for the exercise of all kinds of cultural activity. The Authority also organizes

mobile culture caravans that enable children to practise cultural and artistic activities including dramatics and the cinema. One of the General Authority's departments is concerned with child culture which runs eight child culture centres in eight governorates. Attached to this department are 11 libraries, one in Cairo, another in Giza and the rest in the various governorates;

(c) The National Film Centre has a special section for the production of films for children, including cartoons. Two such films were produced in 1989/90 and 1990/91 and have been screened at various festivals. This shows how small is the children's share of film production;

(d) The National Theatre Centre has run a puppets theatre since 1959 and a National Children's Theatre since 1981;

(e) The Academy of Arts runs a ballet school, a music conservatoire, a children's choral group and a children's ballet troupe. The Academy is currently engaged in the establishment of a higher institute for children's arts;

(f) The General Book Authority organizes an annual children's book fair and publishes annually many books for children;

(g) The National Cultural Centre (the House of Opera) runs a children's choral ensemble and a children's ballet group. It shows considerable interest in children's theatre.

286. The General Information Authority exercises its activities through:

(a) Internal Information Centres which run a total of 25 children's clubs serving 2,600 children a month. The centres organize exhibitions and competitions and provide library and film screening services;

(b) Information, Education, and Communication Centres which focus on family planning promotion by means of radio and television programmes, competitions, short films, press releases and libraries. These centres serve all age groups of both sexes, particularly women of child-bearing age;

(c) The Nile Information, Training and Education Centres which total 14 in 14 different governorates and which aim at teaching and training mass media personnel as well as workers in children's clubs, literacy classes, and rural guides;

(d) The Central Information Production Department concerns itself mainly with the publication of books designed to instil the habit of reading in children, to introduce them to their country and their history and to bring them closer to science. They also seek to implant within children moral and nationalist values and to refine their manners.

287. The Vanguards sector in the Higher Council for Youth and Sports attends to the 6-18 age group and provides its services through:

(a) Youth and Sports Directorates which are to be found in 26 governorates and which provide sports practice opportunities for the 6-14 age group. It seeks to identify promising outstanding athletes to train them for participation in local and international championships;

(b) Youth centres in cities and villages, located in all governorates, cater primarily for the 6-18 age group organizing competitions, celebrations, camps, trips and seminars. They also cater for the gifted and organize for them both sports and academic activities. The number of beneficiaries from these centres is greater in the country than in city areas, children in cities having access to more varied services which make them dispense with youth centre activities. Village children remain largely underserved. Fewer females than males attend these centres, families still allowing girls less access to development opportunities than they allow to boys;

(c) Sports clubs. These are found in all the governorates, and they cater for the 6-18 age group. Their activities cover sports and the arts and cultural and social areas.

288. The Ministry of Social Affairs offers the following:

(a) Children's clubs for children between 6 and 15. They provide educational and social care for the children during leisure time and particularly in the summer holiday. They are also open after regular school hours for sports, cultural and art activities under the supervision of specialists in these fields. The total number of such clubs is 215. They all come under social development and care societies active in the family and child domain;

(b) The Ministry of Social Affairs has since 1985 followed a policy of expansion with regard to children's libraries in order to provide children with opportunities to engage in cultural and artistic activities, allow them access to books, and give them the chance to participate in sightseeing and cultural trips. These libraries are usually established within children's clubs or within the headquarters of societies active in the field of family and child care. The number of such libraries is 176.

289. The mass media, varied as they are in form and content, constitute an essential and effective means of influencing the culture of children, their conceptions, intellectual inclinations and manners. Efforts of the media having an impact on children are:

(a) Children's television programmes, which totalled 49 in 1990 using 8.3 per cent of all television transmission time;

(b) Children's radio programmes, which totalled 36 in 1990 using 1.18 per cent of all radio time with an average daily broadcasting time of 2.27 hours;

(c) Children's literature has only one specialized publisher in Egypt. Other publishing houses publish books for children; however, there are 15 children's magazines available to Egyptian children, 9 of them published in Egypt and 6 in other Arab countries. Ten of the 15, 7 of them Egyptian, are published by government authorities;

(d) Children's encyclopaedias in Arabic, 24 of which are available to Egyptian children, 14 of them published by Egyptian publishers. Most children's encyclopaedias come in single volumes except for Al Ma'arifa, published by Al Ahram Foundation, which comes in 21 volumes and the Human Body, published by the World Centre of Institution, which comes in 10 volumes. Both encyclopaedias are translations. It is to be noted that all encyclopaedias in circulation in Egypt were published between 1980 and 1990. This points to a trend towards increased interest in child culture.

290. The National Council for Childhood and Motherhood has adopted a strategy for development that gives prominence to the concept of human development and emphasizes that the development of man should be the central issue in development policies. This attitude emanates from the conviction that interest in children in general and in their culture in particular is an indication of nationalist and intellectual awareness in society as well as from the belief that the oral development of the child is no less important than his physical development.

291. The strategy for childhood and motherhood development has set for itself a number of long-term objectives whose realization would require the collaboration of all community organizations in the sense of each fulfilling its role in the processes of education and development through special programmes and specialized services.

292. The Third Five Year Development Plan has included numerous projects which were the result of collaboration among the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood, the Ministry of Culture, the Higher Council for Youths and Sports, the General Information Authority and the Ministry of Information following a study of needs and the determination of priorities.

293. The following projects of the Ministry of Culture may serve as a sample of the projects covered:

(a) The establishment of a science museum for children;

(b) Support for the Puppet Theatre Art House;

(c) Support for children's theatre;

(d) Support for the children's conservatoire;

(e) Support for the children's ballet school;

(f) support for the development of the Higher Institute of Children's Arts;

(g) Development of the National Centre for Graphic Arts to incorporate children's art;

(h) The establishment of six new art schools;

(i) The disseminations of child culture house activities to all governorates;

(j) The establishment of children's libraries throughout the villages and governorates of Egypt.

294. A current trend at the Ministry of Education is to use school buildings during school holidays for the purpose of organizing children's clubs that run activities that make good use of leisure and that develop the creative capabilities of children.

6. Cooperation between government and non-government institutions in the fields of education and culture

295. In addition to the government educational system, there exists, side by side with it, a private education sector that covers education from the nursery school age of 3 to the end of the preparatory stage in the basic education cycle. This private sector, which is linked to a special department in the Ministry of Education, follows the curricula and textbooks prescribed by the Ministry. Its schools may stand out sometimes in a number of ways including the teaching of languages. They all charge fees, unlike government schools which are free.

296. Social service faculties prepare social workers for work in schools. Their training includes courses in this field. The faculties also award diplomas in school social service.

297. There is a Teachers Union which sets the criteria for requirements qualifying for the teaching profession. Similarly, the Social Workers Union sets the standards for school social worker qualifications.

298. The Ministry of Education collaborates with the Ministry of Health in providing physical and psychological care for all schoolchildren and students up to university level through medical insurance and through the school health department at the Ministry. The establishment of the relevant statistical database in this regard is under way.

299. On the culture side, a number of private social, cultural and sports clubs collaborate with government organs and institutions to provide cultural and leisure services to society in general and to children in particular. Membership fees vary from one club to another. Furthermore, the many theatres and cinemas that are so popular with adults also cater for children at special hours and on specific days of the week.

H. Special protection measures

1. Children in situations of emergency

300. The Ministry of Social Affairs provides social care and offers assistance to children and their families in cases of emergency, disasters and catastrophes. It sets up special shelters for them and hands out material assistance to them.

2. Children in conflict with the law

301. In the cases of delinquent children, the State guarantees for them fair trials in juvenile courts and they serve their sentences in special institutions. In 1989, such institutions received a total of 226 juveniles.

302. In establishing such institutions the Ministry of Social Affairs aims at protecting society from the deviation of some of its members. It seeks to provide, within these institutions and without, opportunities for guidance and care in order to transform the deviants into ordinary working people. The institutions place the juveniles under observation and supervision and provide them with health, psychological, social and vocational services.

303. No reliable statistical data are available on the number of juvenile delinquents or on their socio-economic distribution in terms of delinquency factors. The data available does not amount to more than the mere numbers of juveniles held in the various institutions. Such numbers do not, of course, include all juvenile delinquents since there are some who are not sent there.

304. Another category of children is that of those deprived of family care such as stray children, orphans, children of unknown parentage and foundlings.

305. For these children the Ministry of Social Affairs has established foster nurseries where educational, psychological and health care are provided. The number of such nurseries is about 20 and they cater for children up to the age of 6. Children between 6 and 18 are sent to hostel establishments which total 154 in number and accommodate 4,750 children, mostly orphans.

3. Children in situations of exploitation

(a) Children in difficult situations

306. These are those children under the age of 12, the minimum age for work, who are forced to go to work. Legislation prohibits the employment of children under this age as well as the employment of children in dangerous jobs or in tasks hazardous to their health.

307. The State plans to pass legislation that would prohibit the employment of children under 15, so as to bring consistency between the age of work and the age of compulsory basic education.

308. Large numbers of Egyptian children enter the labour market at the age of 6, a phenomenon that reflects inability to adhere to compulsory education requirements on the one hand and the cost-ineffectiveness of education

compared to child labour earnings. One statistical source sets the number of children between 6 and 14 in the labour force at 523,000 representing 5.4 per cent of all children in this age group who, according to 1986 census, make up about 9.4 million children.

309. Child labour contracts are subject to certain restrictions stipulated in articles 143, 144 and 145 of Labour law No. 147/81. No children under 12 may be employed and then only in conditions, time, occupations and trades specified by the law and commensurate with age.

(b) Concerning the sale of children for the purpose of adoption or organ transplant

310. The general rules in Egyptian civil legislation provide for the absolute invalidity of any act relating to the ownership of another human being, no matter what the purpose or reward of such an act. Islamic jurisprudence, the principal source of legislation, prohibits adoption on account of its violation of tenets and because it tampers with the purity of lineage.

311. The sale of children as such is defined as the surrender by one party of the ownership of a child to another party, an act which contravenes legal tenets and violates Islamic canon and which, consequently, is non-existent in Egypt.

(c) The sexual exploitation of children (child prostitution)

312. Generally speaking the use of children in indecent acts "child prostitution", is a rare crime in Egypt. This is due to the religious upbringing of Egyptians to a society whose members adhere closely to the rules and teachings of Islamic law. Only in a rare number of cases have children been used in a number of robberies. Criminal statistics for 1990 list only 27 such crimes in the entire Republic.

313. In order to protect juveniles from corruption or deviations there exist various laws that provide for punishments in this regard (it is to be noted that a juvenile under Egyptian law is any person under 18 years of age).

(a) The Juvenile Act 31/74, article 23, prescribes a penalty of three months to five years for anyone who exposes a juvenile to delinquency. Delinquency here includes sexual deviation and the taking of, and the dealing in, drugs;

(b) The Suppression of Prostitution Act No. 10 of 1961 makes all prostitution acts, regardless of age, punishable by a term of one to three years' imprisonment. The punishment is increased to a maximum of five years if the victim is under 21 years of age;

(c) The use of children in pornographic acts, in the sense of the production, dissemination or use of writings or explicit pictures or audio-visual material using children for the purpose of sexual satisfaction, is, according to studies and criminal statistics, non-existent in Egypt.

314. Yet, in the interest of public decency and guarding against delinquency, article 178, as amended by Act No. 16 of 1952, prescribes a term of up to two years' imprisonment for anyone in possession of any type of pornographic publications or objects or means of their production, exhibition or dissemination. The article makes no stipulation regarding age.

315. Act 430/55 regulates the censorship of art works and radio and television broadcasts, making it a requirement for the prevention of what may violate public morality and decency.

316. The lack of clear and adequate data and statistics on this phenomenon has led the Council on Childhood and Motherhood to engage the National Council for Social Research to undertake a study of all the difficult circumstances in which some children live and the numbers of such children. The results of this study will be used to formulate the necessary plans to combat the phenomenon.

Annex I

LIST OF THE LEGISLATIVE ACTS, DECREES, REGULATIONS AND JUDGEMENTS REFERRED TO IN THE TEXT

A. The Constitution, as last amended

B. Legislative acts

1. Act No. 10 of 1914, concerning assembly
2. Act No. 25 of 1920, concerning some matters of personal status
3. Act No. 14 of 1923, concerning public meetings
4. Act No. 20 of 1936, concerning publications
5. Act No. 58 of 1937, concerning penalties, as last amended
6. Act No. 131 of 1948, concerning the Civil Code
7. Act No. 150 of 1950, concerning the Code of Criminal Procedure, as last amended
8. Act No. 118 of 1952, concerning guardianship of persons
9. Act No. 119 of 1952, concerning guardianship of property
10. Act No. 354 of 1954, concerning protection of copyright
11. Act No. 430 of 1955, concerning censorship of literary works
12. Act No. 73 of 1956, concerning exercise of political rights
13. Act No. 396 of 1956, concerning the regulation of prisons
14. Act No. 162 of 1958, concerning the Emergency Act, as last amended
15. Act No. 57 of 1959, concerning procedures for appeal and cassation
16. Act No. 97 of 1959, concerning passports
17. Act No. 89 of 1960, concerning the residence of foreigners
18. Act No. 260 of 1960, concerning civil status
19. Act No. 182 of 1961, concerning the law on narcotics
20. Act No. 38 of 1972, concerning the People's Assembly
21. Act No. 46 of 1972, concerning Judicial Authority
22. Act No. 47 of 1972, concerning the Council of State

23. Act No. 31 of 1974, concerning juveniles

24. Act No. 26 of 1975, concerning Egyptian nationality

25. Act No. 35 of 1976, concerning trade unions

26. Act No. 40 of 1977, concerning political parties

27. Act No. 33 of 1978, concerning protection of the internal front and social harmony

28. Act No. 43 of 1979, concerning local government

29. Act No. 48 of 1979, concerning the Supreme Constitutional Court

30. Act No. 95 of 1980, concerning the protection of values

31. Act No. 120 of 1980, concerning the Consultative Council

32. Act No. 148 of 1980, concerning the powers of the press

33. Act No. 137 of 1981, concerning the labour law

34. Act No. 111 of 1983, concerning migration.

B. Presidential Decrees

1. Decree No. 536 of 1981, approving Egypt's accession to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

C. Regulations

1. The Prison Regulations, promulgated by order of the Minister of the Interior.

2. The regulations concerning officials authorized to solemnize marriages, promulgated by order of the Minister of Justice.

D. Ministerial decisions

1. Decision No. 864 of 1974, issued by the Minister of the Interior, abolishing the requirement for Egyptians to obtain an exit visa.

2. Decision No. 675 of 1983, issued by the Minister of the Interior, concerning the circumstances in which travel can be prohibited.

E. Court judgements

1. Judgements of the Supreme Constitutional Court published in the Official Gazette.

2. Judgements of the Court of Cassation:

(a) Appeal No. 7,039, judicial year 55, hearing of 5 March 1986.

(b) Appeal No. 59, judicial year 60, hearing of 2 January 1991.

3. Judgements of the Higher Administrative Court:

(a) Appeal No. 1,007, judicial year 32, hearing of 26 January 1991, concerning freedom of expression (art. 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights).

(b) Appeal No. 1,327 judicial year 36, hearing of 9 March 1991, concerning the right to work.

(c) Appeal No. 1,145, judicial year 33, hearing of 29 December 1990, concerning the right to form trade unions (art. 22 of the Covenant).

(d) Appeal Nos. 1,294 and 1,587, judicial year 36, hearing of 26 January 1991, concerning the right to vote and stand as a candidate in elections.

(e) Appeal No. 401, judicial year 34, hearing of 27 July 1991, concerning compensation for arbitrary detention.